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THE TIMES

The decline of President Carter, page 14

Last-minute hitch in release of hostages

Hopes that the America hostages would be flown to freedom yesterday were dashed when the Iranians announced they had discovered a "subterfuge" in the agreement signed early in the day. They accused American bankers of trying to bind them to "drop any further claims". While the hostages waited in Tehran, President Carter had to drop his plan to greet them in Wiesbaden on the last full day of his presidency. He will go later as President Reagan's representative. Negotiations resumed in Algiers.

US banks accused by Iran of delaying 'manoeuvre'

By Our Foreign Staff

Iran last night accused United States banks of resorting to a last-minute "underhand manoeuvre" to delay release of the 52 American hostages.

Mr Behzad Nabavi, the chief Iranian negotiator, blamed the banks for "needlessly dragging out this issue", according to the official Pars news agency.

He said the United States banks submitted an 11-page appendix to the Iranian Government to make it binding on Iran to drop any further claims beyond the approximately $8 billion (£3,330m) which are to be escrowed in the British central bank.

". . . Even with the utmost optimism this could only be viewed as an underhanded manoeuvre for delaying the final solution of the problem, especially after the United States President had issued an order for releasing Iran's assets in the United States banks."

Mr Nabavi added that Iran "severely condemned this subterfuge by the United States banks and wishes to open the minds of the peoples of the world, and especially the minds of the American public, to this fact."

Under the terms of the agreement reached earlier yesterday, the American banks had to transfer Iran's assets to the Bank of England before the hostages could be released. But until midnight (Tehran time) "no news had been received of this transfer", he added.

The Algerian intermediaries were negotiating with American representatives in Algiers, Mr Nabavi went on, and the Algerian Government fully supported Iran's stand.

In Washington, a State Department official said the new controversy hinged on Iranian demands for an assurance that any of the frozen assets which turned up in the future would be delivered, with interest, to Tehran. "It is not insurmountable", he said. "We tripped over this one, but it is inconceivable to me that the whole thing will break down."

An official at Tehran airport said the hostages might not leave until after 6.30 am (GMT) this morning. The crews of two Algerian Boeing 727 airliners had left the airport for their hotel.

Tony Allaway writes from Tehran: Iran's 52 American hostages waited here for the flight that would take them to freedom and end the 443-day crisis.

Mr Nabavi said the hostages were undergoing extensive medical checks by a team of six Algerian doctors.

Film released of the check showed the hostages lying down on a bed in a room similar to that in which they were filmed last Christmas. Doctors listened to the heart and checked the pulse of the hostages while another doctor made copious notes.

At a press conference in the late afternoon, Mr Nabavi did not give the full details of the terms of the eight-point agreement that ended the crisis. But he said the United States had agreed to transfer all of Iran's frozen assets to an Algerian escrow account in the Bank of England, except for $2.2 billion (£916m) blocked by United States court orders. He said America had agreed to release this by June.

But Mr Nabavi also indicated that Iran had virtually given up what was once an important condition for the release of the hostages—return of the "plundered" wealth of the Shah and his family. He accepted that by now most of the money would have been transferred out of the United States.

The six doctors were taken from their hotels to the Algerian Embassy in mid-morning, and taken from there by the hostages' student captors, Revolutionary Guards, and police to a secret location.

Mr Nabavi said the medical checks were necessary because he knew the other side would make propaganda "and we wanted something in our hands to show what the condition of the hostages was when they were released. We know the hostages will be brainwashed when they get out of Iran".

He was adamant that, if no agreement had been reached, Iran would have put the hostages on trial immediately.

In fact, the final agreement represents for Iran a considerable compromise on both the original demands for the hostages' release, the return of the Shah and his property, and that previously described as Iran's "final answer" last December.

In the excitement over the impending release, few had any thoughts for the remaining British captives held in Iranian prisons. But Iran radio mentioned them last night in a commentary centred on speculation of the dollar's fall once Iran's assets were transferred.

"The British people are using the hostage problem for their four spies in prison, saying that they are hostages, too", the commentary said.

Britain also took part in an afternoon radio interview with Mr Nabavi. Asked what would happen if Britain chose to freeze the assets transferred to the Bank of England from America, he said: "The British bank will be dealing with the Algerian Government, not us."

Simple ceremony for signing in Algiers

From Ian Murray
Algiers, Jan 19

It was just before 8.30 this fine morning when Mr Warren Christopher drove again from the American embassy to the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was his fifth visit there in just over 24 hours.

But this time he made the journey knowing that his job as chief United States negotiator for the release of the hostages was about to reach a successful conclusion.

In the bare, whitewashed room at the ministry, furnished with two plain wooden tables and chairs, he drew his black and silver pen ready for the signing ceremony, while Mr Muhammad Benyahia, the Foreign Minister, recalled the "enormous amount of work" they had both done over the previous two days.

Mr Christopher was fulsome in his praise for the Algerians. "I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of President Carter and all the people of the United States of saying thank you for undertaking the very difficult role of intermediary", he said. "The American people will always remember this."

The two declarations and a procedural document, drawn up in English, the working language of the negotiations, were produced by an official from a green binder for the two men to sign. Each page was initialled in the top right hand corner and signed on the final page with the date.

Mr Christopher then returned to the embassy where he changed into casual clothes and put his feet up to wait for the final details to be tidied up. The complex terms of the agreement, however, meant difficult work, especially for Mr Kit McMahon, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Mr David Somerset, the Chief Cashier.

As representatives of the "mutually agreeable central bank" they were responsible for overseeing the procedure for the many complicated deposits and exchanges

An American hostage undergoing medical examination in Tehran yesterday.

Reagan invitation to Mr Carter to welcome back the Americans

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 19

President Carter announced the final agreement with Iran on the release of the hostages at 5 am today and for the rest of the day America waited for the hostages to fly out of Tehran.

Orders have gone to banks and officials in four countries for the settlement of the financial and political differences between the United States and Iran and Washington still hopes that the hostages will be released before Mr Ronald Reagan takes office at noon tomorrow, 5 pm GMT.

Mr Carter had hoped to be able to fly to Wiesbaden to meet the hostages, and still have time to return to Washington for Mr Reagan's inauguration. When it became apparent that there would be no time for anything of the sort, Mr Reagan announced that he would like Mr Carter to go, as his personal representative, to meet the hostages after the inauguration.

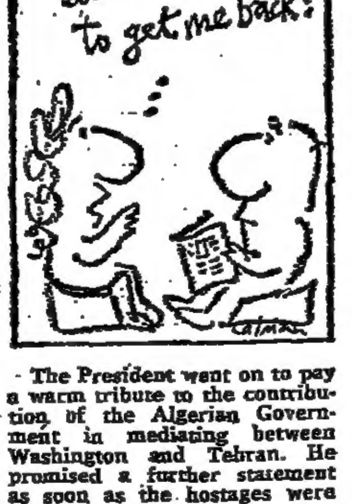
The source of the continuing delay was not clear here this afternoon, but with Tehran closing down for the night, it became likely that the hostages would not be released until tomorrow.

According to the American version of events, the delay involved banks in Tehran and the Bank of England.

The White House let it be known yesterday that President Carter would appear on television in the afternoon. Throughout the night teams of experts here, in Algiers and in Tehran compared the English, Persian and French versions of the texts, to make sure the agreements were watertight.

Final confirmation reached Washington at 3 am, when officials in Tehran and Algiers were already up and about. Mr Carter, who had been waiting for the message, signed the various documents and came into the press room at last to announce the event.

"We have now reached an agreement with Iran which will result, I believe, in the freedom of our American hostages," he said. "The last documents have now been signed in Algiers following the signing of the documents in Iran. We still have a few documents to sign before the money is actually transferred and the hostages released."



The President went on to pay a warm tribute to the contribution of the Algerian Government in mediating between Washington and Tehran. He promised a further statement as soon as the hostages were actually released.

Several considerations impelled the Iranians to settle the long dispute now. One was the fear that Mr Reagan would be less cooperative than President Carter. That, in itself, was not a reason for settling but was an excellent inducement to settle quickly once the basic decision had been taken.

Another — probably much more important — consideration was Iran's need to reenter the international business and financial community. The Iranians need the money, at least $9,000m (£3,750m) that the Americans seized on November 12, 1979; they want to be able to borrow on international money markets again; and they want to be able to buy arms for their war with Iraq.

The final details of the agreements are exceedingly complex, but the essential point is that Iran gave up all demand for ransom. It just wanted its own money back, and proved sensible and realistic in arranging with the banks and the United States Treasury the mechanisms for the transfer.

The essential points of the agreement are as follows. They are based on the conditions laid down by Ayatollah Khomeini on September 12.

He asked, first, that the United States should promise not to interfere in the internal affairs of Iran. President Carter will issue a statement in this sense, and Mr Reagan will doubtless confirm it when he takes office.

The ayatollah demanded that all Iran's financial assets frozen in banks here and in American banks in Europe should be returned. The United States will return immediately about $1,500m and gold worth a further $980m. The $4,000m held in Europe, and other assets held here, will be returned as soon as arrangements for settling the various claims against Iran have been set in motion.

The ayatollah demanded that the United States Government and American citizens and organizations should give up all their legal claims against Iran. It is now agreed that an international claims commission will be set up to settle these matters.

Iran will establish a $1,000m trust fund to deal with them. Iran will also repay all debts to American banks incurred by the previous Government.

The United States will then move through American courts to stop all other legal proceedings that have been started against Iran.

Lastly, the ayatollah demanded that the late Shah's fortune, and that of his family, be returned to Iran.

Families are trying to keep spirits up

From Michael Leapman
New York, Jan 19

Daytime programmes on the three national television networks, mainly quiz shows and soap operas, were fragmented today by constant news broadcasts on the last frustrating hours before the release of the hostages.

Reporters in Washington, West Germany and Algiers offered numerous updating reports on the rumours (many of them false) and on the lack of solid information.

It seemed that scarcely one of the 52 hostage families across the country was free from its visiting posse of reporters camping on the lawn or in the living room, gathering the reactions of those dearest to the prisoners.

By noon when there was still no firm news of their departure from Iran, everyone's patience was wearing thin.

The newspapers, it is fair to say, went overboard. "This is it!" shouted the *Daily News*, giving its whole front page to the headline and the announcement that there were 12 pages of stories and photographs inside. Mr Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* trumped them with 15 special pages.

The excitable press and television coverage of the 14-month drama has bothered many of the families. When I went to Brooklyn last October to see Mrs Barbara Rosen, wife of the hostage Barry Rosen, she said that she and other wives were especially distressed by the peaks and valleys of optimism and despair. The reports of imminent agreements to release the captives, followed by their denial, were hard to take.

They learnt eventually to ignore such reports and retain a modicum of good humour when dealing with persistent press inquiries and requests for interviews. The only information they came to believe was from the State Department, whose officials were praised by most families for their help and sympathy.

All were contacted by the department before dawn today and told that the agreement had been signed. Many opened bottles of champagne which had been on ice for months.

The families also supported each other. They formed the Family Liaison Action Group (Flag) which met from time to time to give mutual support. Many kept in touch by telephone.

Numerous groups of sympathetic people have been organized to give comfort to the families. Yellow ribbons have been tied round trees near their houses — a custom dating from the Civil War to welcome home a long-departed loved one. American flags have been flown and memorial parks created.

Many of the wives of hostages embarked on a series of public appearances, believing it important to keep people conscious of the hostages' plight. Among them was Mrs Dorothea Morefield of San Diego, California, wife of Richard Morefield.

She said today: "My God, it's over. It's finished and they're coming home. I can't start to tell you the relief. The weight's lifted. The pain's gone."

Such elation was tempered by some sceptical comment. Mr William Safire, formerly a speechwriter for President Nixon, and now a columnist for *The New York Times*, wrote: "This is not a happy ending. The United States has paid a kidnapper nation ransom for the return of its citizens (we'll find out the full cost later) and set a precedent that encourages terrorists and endangers innocents everywhere . . .

"Let us not celebrate our disgrace or encourage Mr Carter to make some grandstand show of wallowing in our national humiliation."

Steel men's rejection of job cuts unlikely to deter management

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Steel workers belonging to the main union in the industry have rejected the British Steel Corporation's six-month pay freeze and the management's survival plan involving more than 20,000 further redundancies.

The vote is unlikely, however, to delay British Steel's programme of plant closures and redundancies because the union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, is leaving local branches to decide what action, if any, they wish to take. On past performance, the steelmen will accept redundancy payments.

In the ballot, in which 51 per cent of the union's heavy steel members voted, 18,392 ISTC men rejected the corporate plan and 8,442 accepted it.

On the issue of a six-month pay freeze followed by 7 per cent wage rises across the board, 15,525 voted against and 11,558 in favour.

In British Steel's own ballot covering the entire workforce of 130,000, from senior management to labourers the deal was accepted by a margin of three to one.

Pay talks covering the 55,000 steel process workers resume today against that uncertain background. ISTC negotiators reaffirmed last night their rejection of the British Steel pay package

However, after securing acceptance of the voluntary pay curb and job cuts deal yesterday from union leaders of 45,000 craft and general workers, British Steel is certain to remain adamant that the offer cannot be improved.

When the steelmen's negotiators met yesterday there were proposals for industrial action to emphasize the rejection of the plan proposed by Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the corporation. But that is a remote prospect. Only if the corporation goes ahead with the closure of a big steelworks, such as Port Talbot or Llanwern, in addition to the cuts already proposed, is there likely to be a revolt.

"There was a suggestion that if things get serious, if they attempt to close a major plant, and we feel it is still in their plan, we should jointly take action with other unions", Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the ISTC, said.

Steel union leaders are to hold the first joint meeting of executives with the National Union of Railwaymen and the National Union of Mineworkers on Friday to draw up a policy of coordinated opposition to closures in all three state industries. A policy paper prepared for the meeting suggests that "whatever action is necessary" should be taken to preserve jobs.

But of the impact of the vote among ISTC members, Mr Sirs said: "We are not contemplating action because in present circumstances we leave such decisions to the local people."

Photograph, page 2

Seamen to increase lightning strikes

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Seamen's port leaders yesterday shelved a proposal for an all-out two-day strike.

Instead a meeting at the union's headquarters of senior port committee members throughout the country decided to intensify guerrilla action and to hold fresh lightning strikes in British ports.

Their decision came shortly before shipping employers unveiled measures against striking employees including the docking of pay for any period of disruptive action and suspension of the industry's own unemployment benefit scheme.

The General Council of British Shipping is advising member firms that "since the NUS is determined to escalate the strike" companies should no longer pay seamen when they are on strike.

At the same time the council told the union that it was exercising its right, in the event of a strike, not to pay benefits under the Merchant Navy Established Service Scheme.

Under the 33-year-old scheme seamen are paid, in addition to state unemployment benefit, £31.80 for two weeks and £15.60 for subsequent weeks, up to a total of 26. Seamen refusing to work on a particular ship available to sail will

Continued on page 2, col 1

Potholer is saved in 300-man rescue

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

One of the largest cave rescue operations mounted in Britain ended yesterday when Mr Timothy Flanagan was dragged from the 20-mile Agen Allwedd (Keyhole) cave system in the Brecon Beacons after his leg had been broken in three places by a rock fall.

During the 40-hour rescue operation, doctors fed the potholer intravenously to ward off hypothermia as he was dragged inch by inch through the freezing, wet passages. He was also given morphine injections.

When he emerged into daylight from the tunnel, near Crickhowell, Powys, Mr Flanagan was too weak to speak.

More than 300 cavers from 35 clubs throughout Britain took part in the operation.

Photograph, page 4

Sir Keith Joseph hit by egg

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, was hit in the back of the neck by an egg thrown by one of a group of 40 students who were demonstrating last night outside the Cambridge Union Society building where Sir Keith took part in a televised debate on the economy in which Professor John Galbraith took part.

Galbraith view, page 19

PO lost £46m in first half but hopes for profit

The Post Office lost £46m in the first half of this financial year, but hopes to complete the 12 months in profit. Last year Posts, British Telecom and National Girobank made a profit of £297m, only National Girobank made a surplus (£3m) for the first six months of 1980-81. Posts lost £30m and telecommunications £19m but all sides are said to be trading profitably now Page 17

'Terrorists stunned'

A big explosion as members of the Special Air Service Regiment assaulted the Iranian Embassy in London stunned the terrorists inside and probably saved the lives of the hostages, Mr Ronald Morris, the embassy chauffeur, who was with the Iranian hostages, said at a trial at the Central Criminal Court Page 4

Crystal Palace bought

A consortium of six businessmen, led by Ron Noades, chairman of Wimbledon Football Club, has bought the controlling interest of Crystal Palace from Raymond Bloye, chairman at Selhurst Park, for a reported £600,000. Mr Noades becomes a director of Palace while Mr Bloye remains chairman Page 12

Mr Foot's dual plea

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, sought to reassure both left and right wings of the party that issues to be decided at Saturday's special conference should provide no ground for a party split leading to the resignation of MPs Page 2

French election pointer

In the last electoral test before the French presidential election, the Gaullist candidate beat the Communists in a Normandy by-election indicating that when the Gaullists and Giscardians are united they can beat the left. It also served to illustrate the distrust between the Socialists and Communists Page 7

Russians cast Carter era 'into dustbin'

The Soviet Union has cast outgoing President Carter and his Administration, in the Tass cliché, "into the dustbin of history". Commentators have said that the President's failures included his economic policy, prices and unemployment and his attempts to shift the burden to the working people. In Washington, the Senate approved most of the new Cabinet to be installed soon after Mr Reagen is sworn in Page 7

HOME NEWS

Mr Foot tries to calm fears of left and right over conference

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, told Labour left-wingers of the *Tribune* Group last night that some members of the party were looking to the Saturday's special conference in London on leadership elections to provide an excuse for them to leave the party.

The conference has to decide on the make-up of the electoral college which, in future, will choose the leader and deputy leader of the party.

Mr Foot said there could be nothing in the conference decisions on Saturday to justify any Labour MP's leaving the party. Both at the *Tribune* group meeting and in a television broadcast Mr Foot sought to assure the left and the right wings of the party on that point.

In a television interview he said he was not in a mood to tell right-wingers like Dr David Owen and Mrs Shirley Williams to "shut up and get out". He wanted to preserve a party that was able to embrace a wide range of views on the attainment of socialist aims.

When he met the *Tribune* Group of left-wing MPs at the Commons, he came under some criticisms for his tolerance under provocation from the right, but he retained his stance as mediator.

He had a friendly hearing, however, at a meeting that was devoted entirely to questions.

At the meeting he said he was not in favour of holding another referendum about British membership of the EEC. It would be a clear issue at the next general election and the voters would make their choice.

During his television interview, in Granada's *World in Action*, Mr Foot said that if Britain came out of Europe the country would not be isolated. "You could perfectly well have an international policy without necessarily being a member of the Common Market", he said.

Members of the *Tribune* Group were anxious to get his assessment of the likely number of defectors from the party if the special conference voted for an electoral college for the election of the leader and deputy leader. Mr Foot said he thought very few Labour MPs would leave and he would do everything he could to keep them in.

In different words, he repeated what he had said in the recorded television interview.

"I have never been in favour of expelling people from the Labour Party", he told his interviewer. "I was very much opposed when some people were in favour of expelling me and some of my past associates in the party; so I am against expulsions."

On the propositions to be put to the special conference, Mr Foot said on television: "I want to see a decision that respects the view of the Parliamentary Labour Party . . . one ensuring that it shall have a major vote in the choice of future leaders, and the provisions we have at the moment are to do that in my opinion would be for the acceptance of the 50-25-25 formula" [That is, 50 per cent of the vote to be allocated to the PLP, 25 per cent to the constituency Labour parties and 25 per cent to the trade unions and other affiliates].

NUR backs 50% vote by MPs for party leader

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The National Union of Railwaymen, which has 180,000 votes to cast at next Saturday's special Labour Party conference, decided yesterday to support an electoral college giving half of the votes to the Parliamentary Labour Party in the election of the party leader.

At a special recalled conference union delegates voted for 50 per cent of the college votes to go to the PLP, 25 per cent to constituency parties and 25 per cent to trade unions, which will ally the NUR with other moderate unions at Saturday's conference.

Yesterday's conference rejected the suggestion, which is supported by other moderate unions, that the electoral college elections should be by annual party conference, and instead approved of election by postal ballot.

Mr Sidney Weighell, NUR general secretary, told delegates that he believed most union votes on Saturday will be cast in favour of the PLP being given half of the electoral college.

Other unions broadly in favour of that composition are the General and Municipal Workers Union, the electricians' union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and the National Union of Mineworkers, Britain's second largest union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, wants the PLP to be given an overall majority.

The NUR's policy before the party conference last September was that election of the leader should be left in the hands of the PLP, but after the decision to adopt the principle of an electoral college the union leadership argued against a proposal that the parties in the college should each have a third of the votes.

That proposal was lost by 64 votes to 13 and delegates voted by a three-to-two majority to give the PLP half the college votes.

Mr Weighell was bitterly critical of the administration of the Labour Party, which he said had chosen to ignore the case for changing the composition of the party executive itself.

He maintained that members of Parliament were far better placed than the ordinary party member or trade unionist to form a judgment about the calibre of a candidate for the leadership.

Leaked confidential DHSS circular to be challenged in Parliament

Hospital strike-breaking by troops planned

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Labour MPs sponsored by the National Union of Public Employees are to demand an explanation from the Government of Ministry of Defence plans to use troops in the hospitals and the ambulance service if there is another "winter of discontent".

A confidential circular from the Department of Health and Social Security to regional administrators of the National Health Service gives warning of the likely use of servicemen under Plan Lionel (the first name of the TUC general secretary) if there are strikes by health service workers.

The ministry document leaked to the media also discloses the existence of Plan Concord and Plan Bittern.

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of Nupe, said last night: "We are going to get our MPs to ask questions in the House about this so-called circular, so that we can see its full contents".

The DHSS confirmed that the document was genuine but added: "Every government makes contingency plans".

The Transport and General Workers' Union, which organizes Britain's 16,000 ambulancemen, last night challenged the Government to bring troops into the emergency services. "There is no way that Servicemen can do the jobs of health workers". Mr Michael Martin, TGWU national officer, said.

"They are trying to put the scares on our people. Here is a government that publicly deplores military intervention against workers in Poland and yet is planning the same thing itself."

The confidential memorandum sent to health service administrators says that contingency arrangements for the use of troops during industrial disputes have been finalized after consultations between the DHSS and the Ministry of Defence: Plan Lionel provides for "limited Service assistance in the event of a strike involving certain skilled and semi-skilled ancillary workers".

Plan Concord provides for Service personnel to drive NHS ambulances in the event of a dispute, and Plan Bittern provides for the use of Service ambulances and drivers in a strike.

Pay talks involving the ambulancemen and 240,000 hospital staff are held up because the Government has not yet announced its cash limit for the health service.

The circular goes on: "The security of these documents is paramount. You are in possession of military plans which are highly sensitive. Any disclosure of information contained in these plans would be extremely damaging to the Government's industrial relations policy."

Anglo-Irish studies expected to start soon

From Christopher Thomas
Dublin

The proposed Anglo-Irish studies into a range of key issues, which have been heralded as marking an historic improvement in relations between the two countries, look set to begin soon.

Senior civil servants from Dublin and Westminster will be ready in two or three weeks to call their first full meeting. The immediate task will be to decide what machinery should be set up for the studies, and that process may take some weeks.

The studies were agreed between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, in Dublin on December 8. Developments have been slow since then, but with the Maze hunger strike out of the way events are gaining momentum.

The two leaders are due to meet again, probably in June or July, in London, when some clear indication of the direction of the studies will have been established. The meeting will be devoted entirely to considering them.

By then Mr Haughey may be in the throes of an election, but most pundits expect that he will sweep the board.

The republic's economy may be in a shambles, but Mr Haughey's brisk style has much personal appeal, particularly when set against the cautious intellectual approach of Mr Garret FitzGerald, his main rival.

Officials from a host of British government departments are involved in the preliminary exploration into the best way to set up the joint studies. Hitherto joint operations have involved the Northern Ireland Office almost exclusively.

No one on either side of the border seriously expects that Westminster will attempt to revive its search for a broadly acceptable solution in a purely Northern Ireland context.

The constitutional position of Ulster is not being threatened but there is in Dublin a feeling that a new and intense relationship between the two governments will take much of the sting out of the border question.

McAliskey note: Mrs Bernadette McAliskey scribbled a note inquiring about her two children as she lay in an intensive care unit of a Belfast hospital last night (the Press Association reports).

She was still "very seriously ill" and unable to speak, but smiled when told her children were well.

The condition of her husband, who was also shot at their home in Co Tyrone last Friday, was still serious.

Photograph by David Jones
Mr William Sirs announcing the result of his union's steel ballot in London yesterday.

Getty funds 'threat' to art owners

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

A Commons committee was told yesterday that it was essential to provide further measures to safeguard works of art in the hands of private owners in view of the millions of pounds that would shortly be available to the trustees of the late Paul Getty's estate.

Mr Hugh Leggatt, secretary of Heritage in Danger, said at the opening of an inquiry by the Education, Science and Arts Select Committee into the private and public funding of the arts: "This is quite the most serious thing that has happened to the art world for many years.

"Mr Getty left practically all his funds to the Getty Foundation and some $800m accrued to it, and this is probably now an astronomic figure in view of the rising value of oil.

"The trustees are obliged to spend 75 per cent of their income in order not to incur a tax liability and there will be a marked effect on the art markets of the world."

In written evidence to the committee, which is considering the circumstances in which the nation acquires heritage objects in lieu of tax or by private treaty sale, Mr Leggatt proposed among other things that tax credits should be introduced in the next budget, these to be in the nature of deposits against future for capital taxes.

The recent sale of the Leonardo Codex, he said, underlined the seriousness of the position.

Mr Peter Rees, QC, Treasury Minister of State, told the committee that he was less than enthusiastic about a tax credit system because of the practical difficulties involved.

Union 'no' to hiving off defence work

By Our Labour Staff

The largest Civil Service union has called for an independent investigation into the Government's plans to hand Ministry of Defence contracts to private companies. The Civil and Public Services Association said such a move would reduce public control of the country's defences.

The association also criticized government studies on the possible selling of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston to private enterprise.

Mr Geoffrey Lewtas, the union's section secretary for the Ministry of Defence, said yesterday: "Contracting out work reduces the level of government control over our defences, and amounts to little more than the Government's paying off its political debts".

The union argues that transferring administrative work from Servicemen to civilians to free the Servicemen for more important duties could save the Government up to £300m a year in salaries.

Union officials said there was great bitterness among clerical staff at the ministry at the rundown of civilian employment. Mr Lewtas said that over the past 10 years staff had been reduced by 150,000 and cuts of a further 35,000 posts were planned.

The union is also critical of what it believes are government plans to sell royal ordnance factories, which employ about 22,000. It maintains that there will be no overall saving in costs.

Printing unions' warning on Employment Act

By Our Labour Staff

The main printing unions yesterday reinforced their outright opposition to the Employment Act with a warning that they would "collectively resist any attempt by employers or individuals to use its provisions".

In a reference which apparently rules out the use of state aid for postal ballots, a statement from the TUC Print Industries Committee also said that the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, the National Graphical Association, the National Union of Journalists, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades and the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Engravers, will not use "any of the provisions and procedures of the Employment Act".

The unions would not only resist attempts by employers to use the Act to undermine "well-established trade union organization", but would "maintain and extend the closed shop and other union membership arrangements and practices".

Seamen's leader says tactics working well

Continued from page 1

not now benefit from the scheme.

The cost of the scheme to the employers is about £3m a year.

Mr John Whitworth, deputy director general of the GCBS, said that it would be up to individual companies to decide whether in the event of seamen coming out on strike on particular vessels indefinitely the ships would have to be laid up and the seamen dismissed. In such cases the employer is obliged by agreements to meet the costs of [illegible] seamen from deep sea ports.

He added: "If ships are laid up in this way there are some, and there may be many, which will never be operational again".

The employers' statement said that up to now, not wanting to harden attitudes, some shipping companies had continued to pay their seamen even where lightning strikes had taken place.

However the danger to the future of the Merchant Navy and to the jobs "not only of ratings but also of officers and shore staff" was increasing.

It is understood that the union's disputes committee late last week decided to recommend a total two-day strike this week; delegates at yesterday's meeting may have decided instead to intensify guerrilla action partly, it is thought, because of a reluctance among some ferry employees to lose money in support of deep sea colleagues who have most to gain from pursuit of the union's claim.

Mr James Slater, general secretary of the union, however, said that the union's present tactics were working well and that the delegates wanted simply to improve on them without changing the basic strategy.

He added: "Harassment of our members by the employers will only intensify the response from seamen".

Seamen dismissed: About 30 seamen aboard the strikebound British cargo ships Baltic Valiant and Baltic Enterprise at Hull were dismissed yesterday.

Foster-mother detained for killing child

From Our Correspondent
Leeds

A foster mother killed a baby she was about to adopt because she could not bear his screams, Leeds Crown Court was told yesterday.

The local authority's social services department ignored Mrs Susan Frankland's requests to remove the child from her care, it was stated.

Daniel Frankland, aged seven months, sustained multiple bruises and other injuries and suffered 10 heart failures. Earlier Mrs Frankland had told her family doctor confidentially that she had injured the baby.

After Mr Justice Tudor Evans made a detention order under the Mental Health Act on Mrs Frankland, who had admitted manslaughter through diminished responsibility, Bradford Metropolitan Council opened an inquiry into the case.

Mrs Frankland, aged 28, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, fostered the boy, whose original name was Christopher Pinder, after seven years of marriage.

Mr David Robson, QC for the prosecution, said that Mrs Alice Pickton, aged 55, the secretary of a local foster-care association, "told the council's social services department that she did not think Mrs Frankland could cope. But the council says no specific complaint was made.

Miss Stella Rigby, a student social worker, went to see Mrs Frankland after a telephone call in which she spoke of sending the baby back.

"Miss Rigby diagnosed stress and over-anxiety, and did not agree that the child should be sent back", Mr Robson said.

The judge said: "It looks as though the baby was dropped deliberately on the floor."

A pathologist found 11 bruises to his head and face, and 18 to other parts of his body, Mr Robson said.

Councillor Laurence Coughlin, Bradford Council's social services chairman, was not available for comment last night.

Wildfowler drowns as two are saved in rising tide

From Our Correspondent
Dumfries

A wildfowler drowned in the Solway Firth yesterday as two of his companions were rescued by helicopter. A fourth member of the party who watched their struggle from the shore was given sedation for shock.

Two of the men had set out at first light from Burnfoot, New Abbey, near Dumfries, but became trapped on a sandbank by the incoming tide.

As they stood helpless in rising water, cut off from shore by a deep channel, one of their companions saw them and raised the alarm. Mr Stephen Latham, aged 32, of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, helped by Miss Elma Stitt, who lives near by, launched an inflatable dinghy.

Miss Stitt said: "The current was so strong that we were forced back, but then I managed to push the boat with one of the men in it into the current.

"By this time one of the trapped men was up to his neck, and the other was chest deep."

Mr Latham managed to steer the dinghy near enough to Mr Mark Naylor, aged 20, of Leicester Forest East, Leicestershire, trapped on the shallowest part of the sandbank to get a line to him. At that point a Royal Navy helicopter from Prestwick arrived and winched the two from the water. The third man had disappeared.

The rescued men were treated for exposure at Dumfries Infirmary. The body of their missing companion was recovered six hours later by the helicopter.

Shows to close as London audiences fall

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The Streets of London, the musical by Dion Boucicault at Her Majesty's Theatre, in London, is to close on Saturday, January 31, after a run of only three months because audiences have fallen to a level at which it was no longer economical to continue.

The production, first presented at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, last March, did very well during the Christmas period; but since then audiences have dropped; and with a large cast and an orchestra, the show proved too expensive.

After the end of the holiday season, West End Theatre audiences have been generally declining, and several shows are closing. Another musical, *The Biograph Girl*, at the Phoenix Theatre, closed earlier this month after a run of only two months; *The Dresser*, at the Queen's Theatre, shut last weekend; *The Last of Mrs Cheyney*, at the Cambridge Theatre, closes next Saturday; and *Middle Age Spread* comes to an end at the Apollo Theatre on February 7 after a long run.

BMA head foresees 2000 doctors on the dole

By Nicholas Timmins

Doctors are facing a growing risk of unemployment, Dr Michael Lowe, head of the British Medical Association's hospital division, said yesterday.

"It is a question of health authorities cutting back, coupled with the fact that we are still pumping people through medical schools", Dr Lowe said. "This is making the profession extremely concerned about unemployment."

Figures published last summer showed that 400 doctors were unemployed, "but all the indicators lead us to believe that we are heading for considerable medical unemployment".

Health authorities were not filling consultancy posts of doctors who had left, died or retired. Oxford area health authority had proposed a cut of 27 junior hospital jobs and several authorities were trying to reduce the numbers of locum doctors employed. Applicants for partnerships in general practice were increasing.

"If the current trends continue we believe that within three years we shall have 2,000 to 3,000 doctors who cannot find regular employment."

Dr Lowe said he believed there should be a cut to 2,700 a year in the intake of medical students, now about 3,900 and due to rise to more than 4,000.

Fourth Rampton charge

By a Staff Reporter

A fourth nurse at Rampton high security hospital, in Nottinghamshire, has been charged with allegedly illtreating a patient, and the decision to take proceedings has been approved by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

The nurse, Harry Dexter, is to appear in Mansfield Magistrates' Court on February 19. He is charged with ill-treating Mr Richard Winnik, a patient who was receiving treatment for mental disorder, contrary to Section 126 of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The alleged incident took place on February 5, 1979.

Section 126 of the Mental Health Act says that it is an offence for psychiatric staff to ill-treat a patient in their care. The maximum punishment for those convicted of such an offence is two years' imprisonment and a fine or both.

Two convicted of racial hatred plot

From Our Correspondent
Birmingham

Two members of the British Movement were found guilty at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday of conspiracy to foment racial hatred by the use of stickers attacking Jews, communists and coloured communities. They will be sentenced today together with five other men who have pleaded guilty to the illegal possession of firearms, including a Sten gun and ammunition.

Roderick Lewis Roberts, aged 27, of Longbridge, and Harvey Stock, aged 40, of Bournville, both Birmingham, were found guilty of plotting to distribute threatening, abusive or insulting material likely to stir up racial hatred. They had denied the charge.

Mr Justice May ordered the stickers to be destroyed.

£42,000 damages over dead Christmas trees

A country rector received £42,000 towards his church restoration fund in the High Court yesterday. The Rev Edgar Pearson, aged 63, received the award of damages after Mr Justice Gibson ruled that a weed killer made by Fisons caused Mr Pearson's Christmas trees to wither and die.

Mr Pearson grew Christmas trees to raise cash to pay for the restoration of the eleventh-century St Mary's Church at Dallinghoo, near Woodbridge, Suffolk.

The crop appeared to be doing well but did not do so after being treated with the weed killer, Altrazine 50.

In October the judge ruled that Fisons must pay, but adjourned the question of damages to allow the parties to agree on a figure. He assessed the damages yesterday after lawyers failure to agree.

The parochial church council had claimed damages of £262,284 for alleged misrepresentation, breach of contract and breach of warranty arising out of the use of the weed killer.

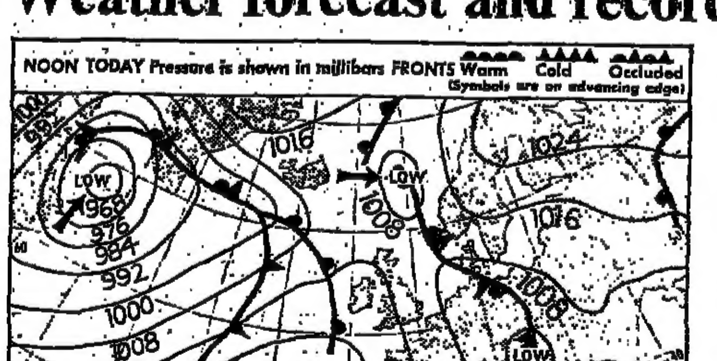
Goldsmith case appeal fails

Michael Gillard, a journalist, who had been called a blackmailer by Sir James Goldsmith, had fallen victim to the "no holds barred" feud between the financier and *Private Eye*, the satirical magazine, Lord Justice Templeman said in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

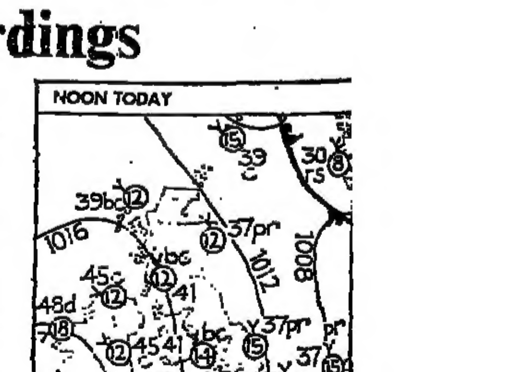
The court dismissed an appeal by Mr Gillard against a jury's verdict that Sir James had not slandered him by accusing him of using blackmail to get a story. Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)



NOON TODAY



b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Today

Sun rises: 7.55 am. Sun sets: 4.29 pm
Moon sets: 7.54 am. Moon rises: 4.53 pm
Full moon: 7.39 am.

Lighting up: 4.59 pm to 7.24 am.

High water: London Bridge, 1.35 am, 6.9m 1.58 pm, 6.9m. Avonmouth, 7.09 am, 13.2m; 7.36 pm, 13.2m. Dover, 10.54 am, 6.5m; 11.22 pm, 6.6m. Hull, 6.11 am, 7.3m; 6.29 pm, 7.4m. Liverpool, 11.12 am, 9.3m; 11.35 pm, 9.1m. 1ft=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft

A NW airstream covers the country and a frontal trough will approach from the W.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, Central S and N, NW, NE England, Midlands, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Mostly dry, sunny intervals; wind N, backing NW, moderate; max temp 5° to 7°C (41° to 45°F).

SE, E, England, East Anglia, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind N, backing NW, moderate to fresh; max temp 5° to 6°C (41° to 43°F).

SW England, Wales: Sunny intervals, becoming cloudy, rain in W in evening; wind NW, backing W, moderate; max temp 7° to 8°C (45° to 46°F).

Isle of Man, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, becoming cloudy, rain spreading from W; wind NW, backing SW, moderate; max temp 6° to 7°C (43° to 45°F).

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Wintry showers, sunny intervals; wind NW, fresh, decreasing to moderate: max temp 4° to 5°C (39° to 41°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Milder weather with occasional rain will spread to all parts, but it will become brighter from N on Thursday.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind N, fresh, backing NW, moderate; sea moderate, becoming slight.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, backing W, moderate; sea slight.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 9°C (48°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 69 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.01in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 4hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,013.6 millibars, rising.

1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	f	15	59	Copenhgn	c	-3	27	Locarno	s	6	43	Nice	s	11	52
Algiers	s	16	61	Dublin	f	6	43	London	c	9	48	Oslo	sn	-10	14
Amstrdm	c	6	43	Edinburgh	s	3	37	Luxmbrg	c	4	39	Paris	f	8	46
Athens	f	14	57	Funchal	f	16	61	Madrid	s	7	45	Reykjavik	f	-5	23
Barcelona	f	12	54	Geneva	r	1	34	Majorca	s	16	61	Rome	s	11	52
Belfast	s	4	39	Gibraltar	s	15	59	Malaga	s	13	55	San Fran	f	14	57
Bermuda	c	15	59	Guernsey	f	8	46	Malta	s	13	55	Stockholm	f	-5	23
Biarritz	f	10	50	Helsinki	sn	-5	23	Manchstr	f	6	43	Tel Aviv	s	16	61
Brmnghm	c	1	35	Innsbrck	sn	-1	30	Miami	s	18	64	Toronto	c	-5	23
Bristol	c	7	45	Istanbul	f	12	54	Moscow	sn	-6	21	Venice	f	3	39
Brussels	c	7	45	Jersey	c	9	48	Munich	c	2	36	Vienna	c	1	34
Cardiff	f	8	46	L Palmas	c	17	63	Naples	s	10	50	Warsaw	c	-3	27
Cologne	c	7	45	Lisbon	s	14	57	New York	f	-4	39	Zurich	f	3	37

Overseas selling prices

Australia $2; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canaries Pes 100; Cyprus 400 mils; Denmark Dkr 5.50; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mk 5; France Frs 4.50; Germany Dm 3.00; Greece Dr 50; Holland Gl 3.50; Iran IR 135; Iraq ID 0.500; Irish Republic 20p; Italy L 1100; Jordan LD 0.426; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon Ll 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 50; Malta 20c; Morocco Dir 5.00; Norway Kr 6.00; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 10; Portugal Esc 50; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 5.55; Singapore $4.6; Spain Pes 100; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS 5.50; Tunisia Din .450; US and Canada $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 40.

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Liberals condemn government interference

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Liberal Party today launches its first comprehensive national manifesto for the county council elections to be held on May 7, with a bitter attack on the Conservative Government's attitude to local government.

Introducing the manifesto, Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale, declares that the party is opposed not only to the Tory cuts but also to the extent of central government interference. "Liberals have been campaigning all over the country against the appalling waste which is so much in evidence, not least in Tory-controlled counties."

The party believes there is plenty of room to cut waste and develop more efficient management and democratic control, and although such savings would not satisfy the Government, they would help to reduce a little the impact on rates and services.

In the past the Liberal Party has not published national manifestos because its belief in community politics makes it concentrate on individual localities. The party's strength in the districts is accordingly greater than in the county areas, where it holds only 102 of the 4,300 county council seats.

Mr Smith optimistically suggests that the party will win 400 seats, far better than the 250 achieved in the Liberal upsurge in 1973. That would bring the party close to holding 10 per cent of the total.

Liberals say that county hall is too remote. Even if people live in its shadow the county council is remote in its organization, hierarchical, secretive, labyrinthine and bureaucratic.

County councillors are too often out of touch with their electors, surfacing at election times to the bemusement of the electorate, and reelected, or otherwise to the accompaniment of massive public apathy.

Accordingly, the party would "say good-bye to the counties with few regrets". It wants to introduce a system of regional and local government, with devolution of powers from London, with one tier of principal councils as most-purpose authorities and reinvigorated parish councils at very local level.

The Liberals want priority given to services for the young and the vulnerable, education and social services, with a far lower priority to less essential services such as new roads or elaborate planning.

The party favours minimum standards in essential services, even if they increase rates, but it believes that by reducing waste and eliminating duplication of services, rate increases can be restricted.

The party also seeks greater financial support for voluntary bodies meeting community needs.

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HOME NEWS

Local prison dispute delays return to cells

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Some of the people held in emergency accommodation because of the prison officers' dispute were being moved to normal prison cells yesterday, but industrial action continued in about 25 establishments, the Home Office said.

Officers there are rebelling against an instruction by their union's national executive to call off the action by midnight last Saturday in response to an offer from the Home Office. Measures being taken include a refusal to accept more inmates than a prison is officially supposed to hold.

Mr Brian Baldwin, chairman of the Strangeways (Manchester) Prison branch of the Prison Officers' Association, said members there voted yesterday morning by a large majority not to carry out the executive's directive. Mr Baldwin said there were 30 rebel branches. The official total of establishments is 125.

The rebels' actions will be discussed at a meeting of the executive on Thursday, which is also expected to have on its agenda the question of what to do about the deal offered by the Home Office. Mr Colin Steel, chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, has said that many branches had indicated that a ballot should be held; another option is to call a national delegates' conference.

National executive members are to address district meetings of local branch officers this week to explain developments. Many of the branches that have called off their industrial action have misgivings about the deal.

The officers have failed to gain arbitration on a demand for back payments for meal breaks for those who have not so far obtained them, about half the strength of the service.

The officers will get the equivalent of 7.5 per cent on their basic pay if they accept the deal, which Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has insisted is the way forward to a better duty system. From now on meal breaks are to be paid for as part of a 42-hour gross working week. There is to be a three-hour reduction in the net working week.

Since the dispute began the total prison population has fallen by about a tenth from 44,005 on September 30. The Home Office is carrying out research into the nature of the fall.

The question is whether courts have made a permanent change in sentencing practices or whether figures will shoot up now that officers have been ordered to suspend their action.

Mr Timothy Flanagan, the potholer who was rescued in the Brecon Beacons yesterday, being carried from the cave.

Explosion in Iranian Embassy probably saved lives of hostages, chauffeur tells jury

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

A huge explosion as members of the Special Air Service Regiment rushed the Iranian Embassy in London stunned the terrorists inside and probably saved the lives of the hostages, who might otherwise have been killed, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

On the third day of the trial of Fowzi Nejad, aged 23, who has pleaded not guilty to murdering two of the hostages, the court was also told that early in the six-day siege the terrorist leader put his demands direct to Iran by telephone. Later, before the first of the hostages was killed, he was heard talking to the police on the telephone.

Mr Ronald Morris, the embassy chauffeur, said he was with the Iranian hostages in an upstairs room of the building in Prince's Gate, Kensington.

He could hear the terrorist leader talking to the police on a floor below. He told Mr Justice Park and the jury that the leader was discussing the use of a coach to go to the airport and suggesting Police Constable Trevor Lock, the police guard held by the terrorists, should drive it.

Mr Morris added: "I heard the shatter of glass. I saw three terrorists rush into the room and start firing at the Iranians. One of the three was Mr Nejad. Another was Faisal, the terrorist second in command. They stopped as suddenly as they had begun.

"This almighty explosion", he continued, "was so terrific they just put down their guns. Otherwise I think they would have killed everyone." The room was beginning to fill with smoke and the Iranians exhorted the terrorists to throw their weapons out of the window.

The guns were thrown out of the window by the terrorists and the hostages. A grenade rolled across the floor and he tucked it in a fireplace.

"Everyone in the room started to shout 'Surrender' and I shouted 'Surrender' in English", he said. "I said to myself, 'the obvious thing to do is to open the door so that when the police come up the stairs they can see . . . everyone was surrendering'."

He opened the door and waited with everyone else. When the SAS arrived the first man was dressed in black with a mask and he held his gun out in front of him shouting: "Don't move. Don't move. Don't move." As Mr Morris repeated the words to the court he held his hands out in front of him imitating the SAS man.

He said he shouted back "I'm British" and moments later he was being hustled out of the embassy.

Earlier he described how on the morning on that last day he heard Mr Abbas Labasani, the assistant press attaché, talking to the police. Mr Morris said: "I heard his voice saying 'I am one of the Iranian hostages. My name is Labasani'. The terrorist leader said 'No names. No names' and then I heard a burst of gunfire."

When the terrorist leader reappeared, Mr Morris said, he asked if a hostage had been killed. The leader said "Yes. Do you want to see the body?"

Mr Morris said he added: "If you have killed a hostage you might as well kill us all. You will not get from this place alive".

The terrorist replied that he and the others were all prepared to die.

Mr Christopher Cramer, of the BBC, said that he was forced at gunpoint to telex a report from the embassy.

He said: "The terrorists' leader cocked a pistol at the side of my head and told me to read exactly what was written, or else I would be in big trouble".

Mr Cramer, of Links Road, Acton, London, said he had gone on April 30 to the embassy with Sim Harris, a BBC sound recordist, to get visas to visit Iran when six gunmen seized the building, taking 29 hostages.

Salim, the terrorists' leader, gave him a document. Mr Cramer added: "On the back page was a threat to kill everyone in the place if their demands were not met".

Mr Cramer said that in the telex room "As I put my finger in the dial Salim stopped me and cocked the pistol in the side of my head and said, 'If you do not telex exactly what you have written you will be in big trouble'".

As the siege went on Mr Cramer became so ill with stomach cramps that the terrorists decided to release him on the second morning.

"Before I was released Sim Harris said to me: 'You must not tell them anything outside. You are playing with our lives. They will kill us if you do'."

Mr Simeon Harris told the jury that when the terrorists burst into the embassy he thought at first it was students planning a sit-in. "Then we were threatened with guns", he said.

He described how he pleaded for Mr Cramer's release on humanitarian grounds as he was unwell. Eventually the terrorists agreed, but gave a warning against any tricks by the police during the release.

The terrorists threatened that if there was any kind of attack while Mr Cramer was being released, Mr Harris and the two other British hostages, Police Constable Trevor Lock and Mr Morris, would be shot.

Mr Harris continued that when, on the Saturday, there was a broadcast in which the terrorists' demands were set out, there was a remarkable change of atmosphere.

"Some of the terrorists were actually crying", he said. "Certainly some of the hostages were crying and hostages were hugging terrorists".

Mr Labasani, the first hostage to be killed by the terrorists, "volunteered to die", Mr Harris said. The press attaché was taken downstairs with PC Lock and himself. "I thought it was ominous, for when they threatened to kill a hostage, Labasani had volunteered to be the first one to die", he said.

The trial continues today.

Radical changes for school rejected

Bedales says head to resign in summer

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Mr Patrick Nobes, head of Bedales School, is to resign at the end of the summer term, the school announced yesterday. The school governors have rejected his proposals for radical changes in the school's academic life and in its relations with the outside world.

Bedales, founded in 1895, is one of Britain's best known co-educational public schools. Fees are £3,450 a year.

Lord Linley, Princess Margaret's son, was a pupil but left last summer; his sister, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, is still in the sixth form.

In a letter to parents Mr Nobes, who is 47 and has been head of the school for the past seven years, said that the decision to leave was not arrived at without much heart-searching. He had been very happy in "the strange and wonderful institution that is Bedales".

"But I realized some time ago that for me to stay until my retirement, which would mean my being headmaster for 19 years, might not be in the school's best interests, or good for me", he said.

Mrs Jean Gooder, chairman of the governors, said they regretted Mr Nobes's decision, but understood why he should want to move while still young enough "to bring his considerable talents to another post", as well as his "natural disappointment" at the governors' decision not to adopt his proposals for the school.

The proposals were in a confidential document the contents of which neither Mr Nobes nor the governors were willing to discuss yesterday. However, Mr Nobes, who was previously head of a Hertfordshire comprehensive, has made no secret of his views on education, which seem perhaps unconventional for the independent school world.

He is known to be keen to forge links between Bedales and the local community, including local maintained schools.

He has suggested, for example, that there should be less emphasis on school sports teams and more on teams drawn from the whole community; that adults should be allowed to attend Bedales' sixth-form classes and that Bedales pupils take some of their sixth-form classes in maintained schools and colleges.

He is also known to be anxious to increase pupils' understanding of the interaction of humans in groups and has suggested that modern group psychology methods might be introduced to help with this and to improve pastoral care.

His views on the need for greater staff and pupil participation in decision-making in school, and for greater questioning of public school ideals and the head's traditionally authoritarian role may also have proved too controversial for the governors.

He has proposed the development of a compulsory curriculum for all sixth-form pupils based on preparation for marriage, parenthood and family life. He is known to be greatly concerned by the effect on pupils of the breakdown of marriages.

Mr Nobes has also pressed Bedales to accept more pupils with disabilities.

Men on day rail ticket took £52,000 from train

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

Two market traders bought £11 cheap day return train tickets from Nottingham to London and returned with more than £52,000 they took from a guard's van on the return journey, it was stated at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday.

They left the station with a carrier bag bulging with seven million Spanish pesetas as well as German Deutschmarks, American dollars and travellers' cheques, it was added.

Mr Colin Morley, for the prosecution, said that Ronald Messom, aged 31, simply left his seat and went to the guards van while his accomplice, Anthony Wilson, aged 22, kept watch. He found the van unmanned and the barred door of the mail section was open. He ripped the Royal Mail bags open and helped himself. He returned to his compartment and sorted out the money, throwing unwanted registered letters out of the window.

The two men left the train at Leicester and took a bus home, Mr Morley added. Their downfall came when they employed an accountant to change the money into English currency.

Mr Messom obtained £15,000 in banknotes, opened a bank account and bought himself a watch before detectives caught him. When interviewed he said there was a guard on the train but he kept leaving the van. He said he acted only 10 minutes after leaving St Pancras and no one was suspicious.

Mr Messom and Mr Wilson, both of Denman Gardens Radford, Nottinghamshire, pleaded guilty to jointly robbing the 11 pm St Pancras-Nottingham mail train. Mr Messom was jailed for two years and Mr Wilson for six months.

Schools buy fewer textbooks

By Our Education Correspondent

Almost four million fewer school books were bought by local authorities in the first nine months of 1980 than in the corresponding period of 1979, Mr John Davies, director of the Educational Publishers Council, announced yesterday.

That represented a drop of 12 per cent, from 31 million books to 27 million. The reduction in the third quarter of last year alone was nearly 18 per cent, indicating that the situation was growing increasingly serious, he said.

Less than 1 per cent of the spending on education goes on books. Local authorities plan to spend an average of £28 a child this year on books. That works out at an average of about 14p a child per school day.

Aid to youth to be reviewed

By Our Education Correspondent

The Government is to carry out a review of the youth service in England.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced in the Commons yesterday that he had set up a review group "to report on present provision, both statutory and voluntary: to consider whether available resources could be deployed more effectively; and to assess the need for legislation".

The announcement was welcomed by Mr John Col[...], chairman of the British Youth Council and a member of the review group.

The youth service is one of the few items that come under the Department of Education and Science and have been protected from Government spending cuts.

Tawse belting protest ends

A boy yesterday went to school for the first time in 14 months after an agreement between his parents, who oppose corporal punishment, and education chiefs.

Danny McGuire, aged 13, was suspended from St Columba's Roman Catholic High School, in Clydebank, near Glasgow, in November, 1979, after refusing to accept a belting with a tawse.

Yesterday Mr Tom S[...], spokesman for the Society of Teachers opposed to Physical Punishment, said "the education authority had realized that the McGuire's were people of principle and were not going to agree to the belt. "Common-sense has prevailed but it is unfortunate it has taken so long."

Appointments Vacant also on page 23

Defence cuts details likely today

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, is expected to announce in the Commons today how the ministry will save £200m in its 1981-82 budget.

At least two missile and communication systems are threatened by cancellation or postponement. Recruitment and training are also likely to be cut.

The decisions on where economies would be made were taken by Mr Francis Pym before he left the ministry to become Leader of the Commons. It would seem that Mr Nott, who entered the post only a week ago, has done little more than rubber-stamp them.

It is understood that he has decided on an early announcement partly to end the uncertainty and speculation, which could have lowered morale.

There is also political advantage to be had in placing the onus of responsibility on the departed Mr Pym, allowing Mr Nott to start his tenure with a clean sheet.

The £200m cut was imposed by the Cabinet last November and is less than half the sum at first demanded by the Treasury. Mr Nott is said to have been one of the Cabinet's louder critics of profligacy at the defence ministry.

There remains the threat of further economies later in the year if the ministry is made to forfeit the amount by which it overspends its cash limits during 1980-81. A sum of £400m has been assumed by members of the media, but the final amount will not be known for some time.

Scots soccer lurches on to the wagon

He sways on the wet pavement edge, tartan bonnet askew, a half-bottle half-empty in hand, the unpleasant face of Scottish football. Draped across his shoulders is a bedraggled flag and under one arm a "carry-out" of beer cans. Ostensibly he is suffering the misery of his team's defeat. If they had won, the result would have looked much the same.

Dejection and jubilation are indistinguishable when they have been rinsed by liquor into one irrational rage. The half-bottle is drained and hurled into the road. Fragments of glass fly beneath the wheels of cars.

Violence and vandalism that erupt in Scotland in the name of football have prompted a change in the law. Next month it will be illegal to take drink into a Scottish football ground, to go into a match drunk or to carry drink on supporters' coaches. No one believes that will end the problem, but it should reduce one main cause.

It will not remove the other cause of football mayhem north of the border, the bigotry that divides Roman Catholics and Protestants into hardened supporters of Celtic or Rangers. The hope remains that more sober fans will find it easier to control their prejudices.

The clubs welcome the new law. Heavy fines have been imposed because of the bad behaviour of supporters, and crowds have been dwindling. Reasonable folk who want to watch football have been turned away by the barrage of bottles and beer cans and the foul language from the terraces.

Mr Frank McElhone, Labour MP for Glasgow, Queens Park, and chairman of the committee

Regional report

Ronald Faux

Glasgow

on football crowd behaviour, the work of which has been the basis for the new law, regretted that the Government had included all the punitive measures from the committee with none of the educational proposals.

"There was a lot of material aimed at making the game more civilized to watch", he said. "I am particularly disappointed that bars inside the ground serving beer in cardboard cups are not to be allowed, even as an experiment. To put in the draconian measures and leave out all the inducements will only breed resentment among the fans."

Mr Desmond White, secretary and chairman of Celtic FC and a member of the McElhone committee pointed out that the club already had power to stop people entering the ground carrying drink. "But it is impossible to frisk everyone in a 30,000 crowd." The main idea of the new law was to remove the real offenders.

At Rangers FC a spokesman said: "We are doing everything we can to improve the behaviour of the spectators. The number of arrests has fallen dramatically this year, probably by half, and several games have gone through without a single arrest. The new law will not stop abuse, but like a 30 mph sign we hope it will slow things down."

Campus plea

Several hundred woman students demonstrated at Nottingham University yesterday for better lighting on the campus to protect them from prowlers.

Gang member told to kill or be killed, counsel says

A man alleged to have shot Martin Johnstone, a drug trafficker, was given an ultimatum, "kill or be killed", it was alleged at Lancaster Crown Court yesterday.

The jury in the handless corpse trial was told that Andrew Maher, aged 27, was given the order four weeks before Mr Johnstone's mutilated body was found in a water-filled Lancashire quarry.

Mr Michael Maguire, QC, for the prosecution, said the ultimatum came from Alexander Sinclair, the leader of an international drug syndicate.

The police found Mr Maher's palm print on a door at Mr Sinclair's flat in Kensington, London, he said. Papers found in the flat allegedly linked the defendant with drug traffickers in Australia and the Far East.

The court was also told that the syndicate used a taxi driver to collect parcels from Heathrow airport, London, and deliver them to the adresses of gang members.

Five men, including Mr Maher and Mr Sinclair, deny murdering Mr Johnstone, whose body was found 15 months ago. With seven others, they also face two drugs charges.

Mr Maguire said that Mr Sinclair travelled under a false name to Los Angeles in August, 1979, with two women to negotiate for cocaine. The negotiations were abortive. On his return to London £148,000 was credited to a London bank account. It was later withdrawn in three transactions, allegedly to finance drug deals.

Counsel said Mr Sinclair had meetings with syndicate members close to Mr Johnstone "to make sure that there was no difficulty likely to arise after Martin Johnstone had been taken out".

"It was absolutely essential that the death of Martin Johnstone did not interfere with the smooth running of the syndicate", he added.

The trial continues today.

Detective's new job: Commander Peter Duffy, head of Scotland Yard's Anti-terrorist Branch for the past two years, who is to take over as commander of the CID in north-west London (the Press Association reports). The new chief of the campaign against terrorists will be Commander Michael Richards, now head of detectives in east London.

£25,000 award for civil servant who saved £32m

By Our Defence Correspondent

A civil servant whose invention has saved the government £32m has been awarded £25,000 from the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Edward Richardson, a principal and technology officer working for the Royal Naval Supply and Transport Service in Bath, has been responsible for what is officially known as the integrated weapon complex (IWC), an all-purpose facility for assembling and testing missiles and torpedoes.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Pillar, Chief of Fleet Support in the Royal Navy, will present him with the money at a ceremony next week.

In the past each kind of weapon was maintained and tested in its own specially designed facility. Rising costs and the complexity of modern weapons prompted a search for a more economical approach in the late 1960s.

The answer has been the complex, which consists of a central test equipment house and four assembly and check rooms, capable of taking any kind of modern missile.

Four complexes are in service at the Royal Navy armament depots at Portsmouth and Plymouth, and several others are planned or are under construction elsewhere. The £32m has been saved by reducing the need to buy expensive test equipment from abroad, by cutting staff and by economizing on the use of land.

The system is being marketed to other countries by the ministry's company, International Military Services Ltd. Mr Richardson, who is nearing retirement, has been seconded to the company to help to promote the product.

'Times' NUJ members demand safeguards

By Dan van der Vat

The National Union of Journalists' chapel (office branch) at *The Times* called yesterday for "contractually binding safeguards for editorial independence" from any new owner and for publication of the criteria by which his acceptability will be determined.

A motion, carried overwhelmingly, with one opposing vote and four abstentions, also expressed members' belief that any further concentration of ownership of the national press would be against the public interest. About 90 per cent of the 300 or so editorial staff of *The Times* and its three supplements belong to the union. The text of the resolution is as follows:

This NUJ chapel deplores the abuse of commercial secrecy to conceal the process of selection of a new owner of Times Newspapers in such a way as to present readers, staff and the general public with a fait accompli.

This NUJ chapel believes that:

1. the record of proprietorial interference in editorial decisions by some of those who have expressed an interest in buying Times Newspapers is such that we have grave doubts that our traditions of objectivity, balance, and independence could be sustained;
2. any further concentration of ownership of national newspapers in Britain would be against the public interest, as defined by successive royal commissions, in that the range and variety of expression would be likely to become even more restricted; and
3. any potential purchaser should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, as was the case prior to the Thomson purchase in 1966.

We insist that before any irrevocable decisions are taken by Thomson British Holdings the company should:

1. obtain from any selected buyer specific and contractually binding safeguards for editorial independence and the protection of editorial staff, including machinery to ensure that such safeguards are honoured;
2. make public the detailed criteria, including those items laid down by the chapel previously, by which it intends to judge the acceptability of a potential buyer as someone who would maintain the standards and integrity of the papers;
3. specify publicly who will take part in the vetting of potential buyers, including provision for participation by journalists; and
4. publish the conclusions of those involved in vetting the suitability of the potential buyers, giving their detailed reasons.

The Times, the supplements, and *The Sunday Times* will be closed in the middle of March unless a new owner can be found to take them over as a going concern. Negotiations between the parent company, Thomson British Holdings, and potential new owners are in their closing stages and an announcement is expected in a few days. Then the chosen buyer will start talks with the printing unions.

Mr Harold Evans, editor of *The Sunday Times*, said last night that he believed the new owner of all five titles would be Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper magnate and owner of *The Sun* and the *News of the World*.

In a revised introduction recorded on Sunday, to his new television series on BBC, *Evans on Newspapers*, he said: "The newspaper sale of the century is reaching its climax.

"I put in a bid for *The Sunday Times* with associates. But the Thomson Organisation wants to sell all the five titles in a single package to a single bidder, and my inspired—or inside—guess is that they have already decided who that should be: Rupert Murdoch.

"If I am right, Mr Murdoch, or Lord X if I am wrong, will now have to go through two processes: first, a vetting process for editorial integrity and independence of these newspapers and then, second, if successful, negotiations with the trade unions."

هكذا من الأصل

Volunteers are at the heart of providing social welfare, Mrs Thatcher tells the WRVS

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

No matter how rich Britain may become, there is no way and no Budget that could produce statutory social services to meet the needs that voluntary groups supply, Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Women's Royal Voluntary Service's annual conference in London yesterday.

In the end, the Prime Minister said, real neighbourliness and understanding care came most naturally from those who chose to give it voluntarily.

"This enthusiasm for voluntary help is therefore not the result of the need to reduce government spending. It is as important at times of expansion and economic growth as it is during a recession", Mrs Thatcher said.

"There are those who carp, and imply that the volunteer is just a cheaper substitute for salaried staff; quite the contrary. The volunteer movement is at the heart of all our social welfare provision."

The statutory services were supportive, underpinning where necessary the work of voluntary groups, filling the gaps, helping the helpers. "They are vital in sorting out the logistics, but the army in the field is overwhelmingly made up of volunteers", the Prime Minister said.

Local authorities, directors of social services, professional social workers and the specialist press were increasingly determined to shift the emphasis of statutory provision so that it became an "enabling" service, making it possible for volunteers to do their work more effectively.

Mrs Thatcher said there was a growing army of self-helpers, informal grass-root groups dedicated to meeting local needs in individual ways.

"Here is where real hope lies", she said. They depended on the old-established organizations like the WRVS to provide them with the tools they needed to carry on their job.

"None of us need feel put out because some other group is tackling problems in a different way. Variety is one of the glories of the voluntary movement."

There need be no conflict between the newer organizations and the older ones. "It is only by recognizing that there are many things we cannot do as effectively as others that we free ourselves to do the things that we can do best", the Prime Minister said.

"That is a lesson Government has to relearn all the time. We politicians and administrators must not forget that the state has a limited role. Yet it is so easy for people to expect the state to do more than it ought to do. There are real temptations for politicians to pretend that they are able to do much more than is ever possible.

"That is why I welcome the way in which we in Britain recognize that it is right for the Government to help independent voluntary bodies financially, because either they can do things which the Government cannot do, or they can do them better", Mrs Thatcher said.

"Last year the Government gave about £85m in grants to voluntary organizations, and much of this called out matching contributions from industry and individuals. In order to make this partnership easier that the last Budget included a £30m package of tax concession designed to increase income from charitable giving".

Again, the Prime Minister said, this was done as a way of saving taxpayers' money. Government help to voluntary bodies had, in fact, been increased. That was intended to increase the independence of charities.

"If too much of the money comes from Government then too much of the direction of activity is dictated by the priorities of Government and too little by the demands of the situation on the ground.

"The vitality of voluntary organizations would be sapped if they made themselves the creatures of the Government."

Charities' call: Forty-five charities are to ask the Government to withdraw a circular allowing health authorities to raise funds for the National Health Service (Nicholas Timmins writes).

The decision came after protests from the National Council for Voluntary Organizations that the circular will mean unfair competition for voluntary organizations from the NHS. The charities fear the health service will be able to attract funds for acute medical and surgical services at the expense of the charities.

Mrs Thatcher addressing the WRVS yesterday.

Whitehall brief: Speech that may harbinger far-reaching reforms by Labour

Better read the writing on the wall in Barnsley

By Peter Hennessy

Ask the average permanent secretary if he has weighed the significance of the fifth Dame Sara Barker Memorial Lecture delivered in Barnsley on a Saturday in December and you will, as like as not, be greeted with a look of blank incomprehension.

But the more far-sighted senior civil servants of this world would be well advised to send round to Labour Party headquarters for a copy because it might—just might—represent a significant harbinger of a root-and-branch reform of the Whitehall machine should a Foot administration take office.

It was delivered by Mr John Silkin, shadow Leader of the House, who has been given what he describes as "a very large remit" on the subject by Mr Michael Foot after the reshuffle of Shadow Cabinet portfolios. He told his South Yorkshire audience on December 13:

There is a great need for change in the Civil Service. It is Establishment-minded and it is by its nature slow to act. . . . A strong minister ought to be able to carry his department with him and if there is a battle between the politicians who are democratically elected and the civil servants who are not, it is up to the minister to win the battle.

This is going to be of crucial importance when we take power after the next general election. . . . We are likely to find ourselves inheriting an industrial desert almost equivalent to the position of the defeated countries in 1945. . . We shall need the kind of ministries and ministers that are able to meet the problem and we shall find that the slow-moving bureaucracy we inherit will need to adjust itself to those changes.

Mr Silkin explained last week that he would spend the next year, with the help of his number two spokesman, Mr Charles Morris, former Minister of State at the Civil Service Department (a ministry Mr Silkin wants to retain), concentrating on themes to give substance to his Barnsley declaration.

He will, for example, be casting a sceptical eye on conglomerate departments such as health and social security. That particular one, he believes, was put together by Sir Harold Wilson in 1968 only to create a job suitable for Mr Richard Crossman. Other Whitehall citadels where he feels a winnowing out of functions may be necessary are the Department of Industry and the Treasury.

The days of a far tinier body, the Central Policy Review Staff, or "think tank", with 16 members, may be numbered as well should Labour win power. It had never really impressed him, Mr Silkin said, because it took too academic a view of policy.

He is emphatic that his ideas are tentative at the moment and will need to go to the Shadow Cabinet when in a more finished form. But it seems likely that a Foot government could sound the death knell of the giant department and it is significant, Mr Silkin says, that the Leader of the Opposition has already split health from social security in his allocation of frontbench briefs.

"Political imperatives" is a favourite Silkin phrase. The heart of the matter, as he sees it, is grafting them on to "an institution (the Civil Service) which has traditionally liked to give the impression that it has no great policy of its own, which is by no means true".

Mr Silkin starts with "a slight prejudice" towards the French cabinet system, where mixed teams of outsiders and specially chosen insiders work directly to ministers alongside the regular machine as a means of marrying policies endorsed at a general election with "a politically neutral, highly intelligent, not to say, passive institution".

He takes seriously, too, his party's commitment to abolish the House of Lords and will spend part of this year working out a way of moving the office of Lord Chancellor and responsibility for the department that goes with it into the Commons without trespassing on the preserves of the Law Officers and the Home Secretary. There was clearly more to the Barnsley lecture than met the eye.

Mr John Silkin: "Great need for change in the Civil Service".

Jailed man calls judge 'a Hitler'

Judge Argyle, QC, was called "a Hitler" at the Central Criminal Court yesterday after he had sentenced a man to 10 years' imprisonment and fined him £20,000 for his part in burglaries in the London area.

Roberto Marcantonio Cohen, aged 35, an antique dealer, of Portland Road, Ashford, formerly of Albert Road, Hendon, shouted to the judge: "It is not justice; you are a bloody Hitler".

Mr Cohen, known usually as Marcantonio, struggled with two court officers as he hurled abuse at the judge. He kicked the front of the dock and tried to jump over it before he was restrained.

Mr Cohen and another man and a woman had pleaded guilty to a total of 39 charges, mainly of handling stolen property. Mr Cohen alone pleaded guilty to 27 charges: one of plotting to handle stolen property, for which he received 10 years' jail and the fine; 18 of handling; four burglaries; one attempted burglary; two charges of possessing firearms without a certificate; and one of failing to surrender to bail.

He received sentences varying from one year to five years for the other offences, all to run concurrently with the 10 years.

The judge said the value of the stolen property was about £400,000, of which less than a quarter had been identified.

Stephen Costello, aged 32, a self-employed mini-cab driver, of Welford Court, Westbury Estate, Wandsworth, London, was jailed for seven years. He pleaded guilty to plotting to handle stolen property, eight charges of handling and one of driving while banned.

Patricia Sheila Gentry, aged 33, also of Portland Road, Ashford, was jailed for three years. She pleaded guilty to plotting to handle stolen property, one charge of handling and one charge of corruption. She asked for 14 other offences of handling to be considered.

Low life in a village that sinks

From Ronald Kershaw
Barnsley

Mr James Broadhead, a night shift worker from Darton, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, is taking the remaining five days of his annual holiday to catch up on lost sleep.

He is the latest victim of mining susidence in a village where houses tilt crazily, roadways and gardens collapse and National Coal Board contractors spend most of their waking hours repairing subsidence damage caused by the extraction of coal from Woolley colliery.

Mr Broadhead lives in one of a pair of semi-detached houses, 7 and 9 Bence Lane, which are affected by subsidence. The coal board rehoused his neighbours at number 9 and a week ago moved in workmen who from 8 am to 4 pm produce loud hammering and banging as they make repairs.

Mr Broadhead has been turned into one of the coal board's more severe critics.

"When I come off night shift and try to sleep it is quite impossible. They might as well be hammering on my bedhead. I have reached the end of my tether and I am having to take my holidays just to get some sleep at night."

As a crane driver working for British Steel, Mr Broadhead has to be constantly alert to safeguard the men beneath his machine. To add to his difficulties, his wife has just had an operation for cancer.

Mr Broadhead recruited the assistance of Darton Subsidence Action Group, whose chairman, Mr Donald Chamberlain, has written to Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, asking him to intervene.

Mr Broadhead said that the coal board had offered him temporary accommodation, but it was too far from the home of his daughter, who needed to be at hand to care for his wife.

A coal board spokesman said last night: "We would prefer not to comment until the chairman has received the letter outlining the problem."

Police seek cars after party blaze

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

The police were searching yesterday for two cars seen near the house in New Cross Road, Deptford, London, where 10 teenagers died in a fire on Sunday morning. Two more people were still seriously ill yesterday after the blaze, which began as an all-night birthday party was closing.

Commander Graham Stockwell, in charge of the investigation, said yesterday that a white car was seen near the house 30 minutes before the fire and what is thought to be a second car was also seen. It was full of young black men.

The police, who believe the blaze could have been caused deliberately, are urging the young people who were at the party to come forward. One teenager believes he saw someone throw something through the window of the house shortly before the fire.

Mr Stockwell said there had been reports of a fight at the party, which attracted a number of gatecrashers. Those reports had been denied by the party organizers.

Denial on bogus arms certificate

The Zambian High Commissioner, Miss Chibesakunda, is conducting "a thorough investigation" into allegations that a member of her staff had sold a bogus certificate for arms purchase, she told the Foreign Office yesterday. She had issued a vigorous denial to the press.

Allegations in The Observer said that an end user's certificate was obtained from the military attaché for £1,000, paid by members of the newspaper's staff posing as arms buyers.

A view of St John's Market, Stafford. More than 20,000 people have petitioned against a plan for its removal.

Heritage society and traders object to market project

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Next to the eleventh-century St Mary's Church in Stafford is a garden of remembrance dedicated to the dead of the First and the Second World Wars. A notice urges people to treat it "with the respect and reverence due to their memory".

But respect and reverence are just what Stafford Council is accused of lacking in giving its approval for a new market in an adjoining car park. The Stafford Heritage Society says the proposed building is more suited to an industrial estate.

However, that is not just another dispute between a developer and a group of conservationists. More than 20,000 people have signed a petition against the project and the St John's Market traders have applied for an injunction to prevent their being evicted from the pleasant and popular Victorian building they now occupy.

Stafford, an historic town with fine buildings, has suffered more than most of its kind from unnecessary demolition and mediocre development. Support for the petition suggests widespread resentment at the imposition of further comprehensive schemes that appear to be more in the interests of developers than of those who might be expected to use them.

The society points out that the proposed development lies within a designated conservation area, and that it would be locked and deserted in the evenings and at weekends. It has urged councillors to visit Chesterfield, in Derbyshire, where a similar scheme was dropped in favour of rehabilitation and partial rebuilding.

Mr Robert Billington, chairman of the Stafford branch of the National Market Traders' Federation, says that all but a handful of stallholders have contributed to its campaign.

"My main objection is that we stand to lose our prime trading site in the centre of the town", he said.

Mr Billington and Mr Stanley Hewitt, secretary of the heritage society, say that the important decisions were taken by the council in private, and that the public was given only two days to inspect the plans.

Mr Ronald Humphries, the council's chief executive, said that the scheme had originated in its desire to dispose of the old Guildhall, which adjoins the market and which had become too expensive to maintain.

The council had looked at three development applications and had selected one by Arrowcroft Investments. The market was needed to provide continuity of trading while redevelopment was taking place.

Mr Dennis Edson, of Arrowcroft, said the scheme took the character of the town firmly into consideration. The market traders were being catered for and would eventually have much better premises.

Plea to end rule on student fees

By Lucy Hodges

Six organizations have written to Mr Mark Carlisle, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, asking him to abolish the rule requiring students to have lived in Britain for three years in order to be treated as home students.

Recent immigrants are treated as overseas students and have to pay the new, higher fees for university and polytechnic courses.

The bodies objecting are the Commission for Racial Equality, the National Association of Teachers in Further Higher Education, the National Union of Students, the National Association for Multiracial Education, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and the National Association for Teaching English as a Second Language.

Mr David Lane, the chairman of the commission, says in his letter that the rule should be replaced by the principle of whether the student intends to live in Britain.

That many black students are treated differently when they are in no real sense "overseas students" causes individual hardship and harms community relations, he says.

Waste advisory body to be scrapped

By a Staff Reporter

The Waste Management Advisory Council, an important part of the former Labour Government's conservation strategy, is to be abolished. An announcement is expected soon in Parliament.

The council, as reported in The Times last week, has not met since the present Government came to power, which has drawn protests from its members.

It was set up after the publication of the Green Paper, War on Waste, in 1974 and chaired jointly by the departments of industry and the environment.

Mr Thomas Burke, vice-chairman of Friends of the Earth and a council member, said yesterday that its abolition showed the Government's misunderstanding of environmental issues.

"The Government has shown that in the name of the pursuit of revival it is prepared to let industry dump its costs on the consumer and ratepayer."

The momentum for a coherent strategy on issues such as rubbish disposal and recycling had gone, he said.

Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, told members that the council did valuable work but that "more direct and informal cooperation" was needed because of limited manpower resources.

In brief

Man in car falls 70ft down shaft

Mr Andrew Newton, an advertising director, of Belsize Park, London, died in hospital last night after his car had fallen 70 feet down the lift shaft of a multistorey car park near Fleet Street.

The car had apparently been driven into the shaft before the lift arrived at the eighth floor.

Strike is called off at 'Kentish Times'

A dispute that affected distribution of the Kentish Times series for 18 weeks, when more than 1,500,000 copies were printed abroad and distributed free, is to be settled by arbitration. Striking drivers have returned to work and all nine papers in the series will be on sale on Thursday.

Officer back on duty

Captain Andrew Snowball, who was given a one-year jail sentence, suspended for two years, at Belfast Crown Court on Thursday for staying silent about the deaths of two farmers in Northern Ireland in which his men were involved reported back for duty with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in Scotland yesterday.

Double murder charge

Michael Scott, aged 20, was remanded in custody at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday charged with the murders of Miss Margaret Anderson, aged 60, of Elgin Terrace, and Mrs Doris Watson, aged 52, of Moira Terrace, both Edinburgh, on January 11 or 12.

Award for 'chatterbox'

Mrs Sandra Birkett, formerly of Teynham, Kent, who was said to have become a compulsive chatterbox after she suffered head injuries in a road accident, was awarded £225,000 damages by Mr Justice Michael Davies in the High Court yesterday.

Canned meat warning

Canned meats carrying the Walls brand name, which were sold recently, may contain horsemeat, Mattesons Canned Meats said last night. The suspect products are stewed steak, steak and kidney pudding and steak and kidney pie.

Policeman accused

Police sergeant Malvern Montgomery Burnham, aged 36, was remanded on bail at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday until January 30, charged with persistently importuning for an immoral purpose.

Oarsman's death

The Royal Navy is to ask that Mr Kenneth Kerr, from Port Seton, near Edinburgh, the lone Atlantic oarsman, be officially pronounced dead. His boat, the Bass Conqueror, was found on Sunday about 70 miles off the Danish coast.

£52,500 damages

Lovell Chukwumah, aged 12, of Finchley Road, Hampstead, London, who had been left a spastic quadraplegic after a road accident, was awarded £52,500 agreed damages in the High Court yesterday.

22,822 disconnexions

The London Electricity Board headed the list of supply disconnexions to domestic users during 1979-80 with 22,822 from an average of 1,493,910 consumers, it was stated in the Commons yesterday.

PARLIAMENT, January 19, 1981

Gallons of petrol preferred to litres

House of Commons

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said during questions she personally regretted, and the Government had not required, the changeover to selling petrol by the litre instead of the gallon.

Mr Michael Brown (Brigg and Scunthorpe, C) had asked if Mrs Oppenheim had been offered any common sense in the matter of selling petrol by gallons or litres.

Mrs Oppenheim (Gloucester, C): The Government has not required this change and I personally regret it. During the passage of the last Weights and Measures Bill under the last Government I moved and carried an amendment to exempt the statutory imposition of metrication on gallons.

This is a purely technical matter which is arising within the industry because of technical difficulties in the petrol pumps themselves.

I regret this has been necessary but I accept it is. I personally will select garages which are still selling petrol by the gallon wherever possible.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton, North, C): To a certain extent the discussion by petrol companies with regard to technical problems is a smokescreen.

Mrs Oppenheim: That is not the view of those involved in the technical production of the apparatus. The increase in the price of petrol in recent years has made it difficult for the mechanism on existing petrol pumps to keep up.

It is also true that in the United States, where by coincidence, the price of petrol is $1.30 they are also changing to metrication and I believe going to regret it as well.

Manchester police chief under attack

A chief constable should be allowed to plan his resources in the event of a procession in his area and an essential ingredient of that was having notice of the procession, Mr Frederick Silvester, (Manchester, Withington, C) said during a debate on the second reading of the Greater Manchester Bill.

The Bill provided (he said) for three days' notice to be given before processions could take place. That was in line with the proposals of the select committee and the West Midlands Bill.

The need for this was generally recognized and had been strongly advanced by the police. Processions involved considerable public expenditure and diversion of police resources. It was not simply a question of policing the procession or the counter-demonstration, if it arrived. Police resources were not limitless.

Mr Stanley Orme, (Salford, West, Lab) said the chief constables had the power to prohibit demonstrations and the chief constable of Greater Manchester had not prohibited any of them, but had provided excessive protection at a colossal cost.

The proposal in the Bill was nonsense and Labour MPs would be opposing it. The problem must not be dealt with on a patchwork basis but on a national basis.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, Under Secretary for the Environment (Camden, Hampstead, C), said the Bill was one of a number promoted by local authorities primarily to save what they considered to be essential local legislation which would otherwise lapse under the Local Government Act, 1972.

The Bill would require 72 hours' notice of street processions. The Government was currently conducting a review of the Public Order 1936 and the related legislation.

The Home Secretary was pressing ahead with the review as quickly as possible and would announce the outcome as soon as he could.

In Greater Manchester there were provisions of this sort in the existing local legislation which the Bill was intended to replace.

The Chief Constable considered the existing provisions had proved useful in the past.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Stockport, North, Lab) jumped to his feet and shouted "I spy strangers", but the motion that strangers should withdraw was rejected by 114 votes to 28—Government majority, 86: the closure motion carried by 118 votes to 34—Government majority, 84, and the Bill was read a second time.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: European Assembly Elections Bill, remaining stages.

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Contempt of Court Bill, committee (second day).

Less progress than wished over air fares in Europe

The opposition of other European Governments meant that Britain was making less progress than it would wish towards greater competition over air fares in Europe, Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade, said in reply to questions on European air fares.

Mr Eyre (Birmingham, Hall Green, C) said that those governments wished to retain the present tightly regulated system.

We can make progress (he went on) only by agreement. But we support innovative fares proposed by British airlines; we refuse fare increases when we do not think them justified; and at our initiative, the Commission is examining air fares in the Community, with a remit to report back to the Council of Transport Ministers.

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C): The current level of standard air fares in Europe is ludicrously and unacceptably high in relation to other routes. Would he press this matter further? What is wrong with further competition, particularly in the private sector, to improve the situation.

Mr Eyre: We believe that major liberalizing steps are needed because air fares too often are too high. More innovative steps such as the lower stand-by fares and the mini-prix fares should be approved.

Because of our international agreements we cannot proceed with the level of international fares without agreement of other Governments concerned.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab): For British Airways there is a need to protect existing capacity within the European air lines and there is a relationship between the loss of British Airways and the attitude taken by the Government on a free air policy.

Mr Eyre: It is true that the world economic recession is adversely affecting the trade of British Airways and other international air-lines. But against that background, our aim is to ensure that legitimate fares suit all categories of traveller, and that is why the former Under Secretary of State (Mr Norman Tebbit,) is to be congratulated in his initiative in persuading the Commission to examine air fares in the Community and to report back.

Mr Peter Emery (Honiton, C): An immense amount of air tickets which are sold to what are termed "bucket shops" by the major airlines, including British Airways.

In order to obtain a greater degree of competition and stop the aspect of the illegality of what is frequently welcomed by holiday-makers and travellers, should not the Government attempt to get these "bucket shop" operation brought into a better perspective?

Mr Eyre: I appreciate the practical part of his question and he is right in his view of public opinion. The agreement which is made for airline routes also includes the agreement about fares and airlines agents in most cases are required to charge only approved fares.

It is not possible for us to legalize illegally discounted tickets except by obtaining the agreement of our international partners to lower fares.

Mr Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford, C): However attractive and long overdue is the prospect of lower air fares, is he entirely happy that British Airways should be embarked on the present policy of matching competition, whether illegal or legal, at a time when it is in such desperate trouble?

Mr Eyre: He has not fully understood the purpose of, for example, Sir Freddie Laker, that when lower fares have been negotiated, for example on the North Atlantic run, the result has been to increase the market and therefore to increase the number of passengers who are able to afford to travel.

EEC Commissions first report on US energy costs coming in February

It would be unrealistic to expect the EEC Commission to make a full and final report to the Council of Ministers at its February meeting about the unfavourable effect on the trade balance of United States subsidies through industrial energy costs, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade, said.

Mr Parkinson (South Hertfordshire, C) said that in 1980 the United Kingdom had a visible trade surplus of £1,039m. The current account as a whole was in surplus by £2,231m.

Mr Sydney Chapman (Barnet, Chipping Barnet, C): Would he confirm that our trade with the industrialized non-Opec countries must be broadly in balance?

If that be so, should we not be wary before trying to introduce import controls because that would surely mean that many exporting industries would suffer in order to try and help the problems that certain industries were suffering at the moment?

Mr Parkinson: He is right. We had a small surplus with the countries about which he questioned me, but we had a substantial surplus on manufactures and they had a surplus with us on raw materials. It is a two-way trade which is of benefit to us.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU): These figures show that this country ought to be importing more rather than less. Would the Government consider advising the Queen to institute a new award for services to importing to counter-balance and ridicule the awards for services to exports?

Mr Parkinson: It is rare that I hear him making a remark which is not original and one that was floated by Mr Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury, C) a few years ago.

This year our imports fell substantially and our exports were more or less maintained.

Those who keep shouting for an extension of import controls should recognize that we would be the big sufferer if people outside this country took their advice.

Mr Esmond Bulmer (Kidderminster, C): Our balance of trade with the United States would be more favourable if that country was not subsidizing its energy costs.

Does he have any reason to think that circumstances will change? If not, does he propose to take any fresh initiative on behalf of the British carpet industry?

Mr Parkinson: I made a statement in the House in December and the following day went to Brussels and persuaded the Council of Ministers to instruct the EEC Commission to take up this matter with the Americans with a view to finding an answer to the problem.

The Commission is committed to making a first report back at the February Council of Ministers. I will keep the House in touch with developments.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade, prices and consumer protection (North Lanarkshire, Lab): There is now outrage in many sections of British industry at the continued capacity of the United States to gain an unfair trading advantage by low energy prices. This represents the dimensions of a scandal.

It is time that the United Kingdom, with or without the cooperation of other countries, affected in western Europe, took a direct stand.

It is ominous that the words "first report to the next Council of Ministers" are being used. Does he not fear that this will drag out for months with no remedy for British industry suffering from an unfair policy?

Mr Parkinson: It would be unrealistic to expect a full and final report to the Council of Ministers in February. President Reagan and his administration take office tomorrow (Tuesday.) They are going to need time to consider the range of problems they face.

The Commission accepts the urgency of this matter and will be pressing hard. One of the items we seek is a deregulation of energy prices.

During later questions Mr Parkinson said: Our exports of manufactures to the EEC have been increasing dramatically. This year they cover 90 per cent of our imports in manufactures, as opposed to 84 per cent the year before. Our trade with Europe in manufactures is our fastest growing area for trade.

Last year, Britain sold to the rest of the world £3,500m more of manufactures than they bought. If we stopped other people's exports to us, they would do the same thing and, since we have a surplus, we would be the losers.

Minister's pledge on doorstep deliveries

There was no question that doorstep deliveries of milk would be abolished, Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, said.

Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson (New Forest, C) asked if she proposed to determine whether the restrictions on competition in the sale of milk were beneficial to consumers.

Mrs Oppenheim (Gloucester, C): Restrictions in competition are normally a matter for the Director General of Fair Trading. He is considering whether to use his powers under the competition legislation over the supply of milk.

If he does, then all aspects of the public interest will be taken into account in any subsequent investigation and recommendation.

Mr McNair-Wilson: Since the rise in the price of milk over the past 12 months is higher than the current rate of inflation, has the Government considered the free importation of milk and would that lead to the end of doorstep deliveries?

Mrs Oppenheim: This is a matter for Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The question of ending doorstep selling is something which will be in the forefront of the mind of anybody considering any reference on milk prices and milk availability, and the price of milk in supermarkets since this is one side of the public interest that must be considered equally with the other side of the public interest.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Wandsworth, Battersea, South, Lab): Can she give a better reassurance than that? The vast majority of people in this country think it essential that doorstep deliveries should continue.

We need a clear statement from the Government that it will do all it can to protect us in this.

Mrs Oppenheim: He is probably right that a majority of people would prefer the continuance of at least a partial if not an entire doorstep delivery.

No doubt the Director General of Fair Trading will bear this in mind and if he does make a reference, the public interest and public opinion on this matter would be something for the Monopolies Commission to consider in making its final report and recommendations.

The criteria in the legislation is drafted in such a way that the Monopolies Commission must take note in its final recommendations of all aspects of the public interest.

Mr John Fraser, for the Opposition (Lambeth, Norwood, Lab): Sometimes the pure pursuit of competition can have adverse effects and put up prices. The ending of doorstep deliveries would rid us of a cheap source of protein and only create a surplus inside the EEC.

Mrs Oppenheim: One of the purposes of the Competition Act is to deal with distortions in competition of this nature.

The whole question of the doorstep delivery of milk is important. It concerns the majority of consumers in this country and there is no question of that being abolished. This Government is clear that whatever the public interest is this Government will follow it.

On other distortions of competition, these are matters for the Director General to deal with under the Competition Act.

Inquiry into power link with France

Mr Don Dixon (Jarrow, Lab) asked the Secretary of State for Energy, when the decision would be taken on the location of the converter station for the proposed 2000 MW power link between the United Kingdom and France; and whether this would be soon enough to make the project attractive to Electricité de France, the collaborators in the scheme.

Mr Norman Lamont, Under Secretary, said in a written reply: Secretaries of State for Energy and for the Environment have decided to reopen the inquiry into this proposal.

The reopened inquiry will now commence on February 16. A decision will be taken as soon as possible.

High standards at prison

Mr Mark Hughes (Durham, Lab) asked the Home Secretary what evidence, if any, he had received either from those who had made public assertions or others to substantiate the claims of easily available supplies of tobacco, alcohol or drugs at Frankland Prison.

Mr William Whitelaw said in a written reply: I have received no such evidence. I am satisfied from inquiries I have had made that there has been no slackness or impropriety in the running of Frankland, and I am grateful to the armed forces for their consistently high standard of care and supervision of the prisoners there.

Exchange rate

Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said in a written reply: The direct effect upon the retail price index of a 1 per cent change in the exchange rate would be expected to be greater than from a 1 per cent in the value of the green pound.

Mr Whitelaw defends decision to repeal 'sus' law: police will not be left powerless

There had been a tendency among some supporters of the suspected person offence—known as "sus"—to exaggerate the overall contribution it had made in preventing crime and to give too little weight to the other powers the police had at their disposal.

This was stated by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, when moving the second reading of the Criminal Attempts Bill which repeals "sus" and codifies and reforms the present common law on attempt.

Mr Whitelaw (Penrith and the Border, C) said the Select Committee on Home Affairs, which had recommended the repeal of "sus" had considered the offence to be objectionable in principle, carrying the inherent grave risk that innocent persons could be convicted.

It did not find any evidence that police, as had been alleged, used the offence in a discriminatory fashion and it did not believe that "sus" had been used by the Metropolitan Police with a deliberate racial bias.

In spite of the detrimental effect the offence had had on relations between the police and the ethnic minorities, the committee made clear it would not have regarded this as sufficient reason for recommending repeal if it had considered such an offence to be necessary.

He accepted there was much force in the criticisms of the offence. I believe (he said) that the offence has become so widely mistrusted that it is now in everybody's interest that it should be repealed.

In reaching the decision he had given the most careful consideration to the views of those who urged it should be retained. He recognized a number of police forces had found "sus" useful in enabling them to intervene before crimes had been committed and therefore understood the concern expressed by some about the adequacy of police powers to deal with street crime once "sus" was repealed.

It would be naive and wrong to pretend there had not been instances in which "sus" had served a useful purpose and would do so again if preserved.

The number of persons proceeded against with "sus" was relatively small, fewer than 3,000 in 1975, and many forces hardly used it at all.

These facts (he said) cannot be reconciled with the view that "sus" represents the only barrier against a massive increase in street crime.

There were other measures the police could take. In some instances it might be sufficient to make clear that the person was being observed; in others the police could continue street observation until the point was reached at which intervention was called for.

There were cases where a warning might be given; there was the common law power of arrest on reasonable suspicion of a breach of the peace; and power to arrest a person found on enclosed premises. It was not the case that the repeal of "sus" would leave the police powerless in all such circumstances.

The Government could not have agreed to repeal the offence without considering the possible need for other measures to fill particular limited gaps in the law which might be left by its repeal.

The committee had referred to two particular circumstances, the first where somebody tampered with a parked car and the second where someone attempted to steal from a pocket which turned out to be empty; in both cases "sus" might at present be used to make up for deficiencies in the law of attempt.

He said in an earlier debate that while the Law Commission's proposals would enable the charge of attempted theft to be brought in the empty pocket case they would be unlikely to have any effect on cases involving interference with parked cars. Clause 9 provided for a new offence of unlawful interference with vehicles in a public place.

He had seen it suggested that the proposed offence was simply "sus" in another form but he could not accept that for one moment. It was in no sense a catch-all provision.

By contrast with "sus" the new offence was concerned only with overt acts of interference with motor vehicles.

The repeal of "sus" had given an added dimension to the Law Commission's report but even without this their proposals would have demanded prompt attention. Apart from their significance in codifying parts of the common law the proposals offered much-needed clarification and reform.

The difficulty concerning attempts to steal from empty pockets was one example of the wider problem of what was known as impossible attempts.

One result of setting these matters out clearly in statutory form would be to remove some of the general uncertainty which might have encouraged the use of "sus" when attempted offences might have been charged instead.

Conduct which constituted an attempt was defined as an act which went so far towards the commission of the offence as to be more than merely a preparatory act.

There was the vexed problem of impossibility. There might be reasons why it was impossible for a person in a given situation to fulfil his criminal purpose. The means might be inadequate, for example, the gun used by a would-be murderer might have too short a range.

The impossibility might stem from the fact that the object of the offence did not exist or was not present—for example the pocket a pickpocket put his hand into might be empty or the item he proposed to steal might have been removed.

The Bill provided that a person might be guilty of an attempt notwithstanding that some fact existed which rendered commission of the full offence impossible.

There were cases in which some essential ingredient specific in the definition of the full offence was lacking so that even if a person completed what he thought he was doing, he would not have committed the full offence.

For example, there was the person who handled or attempted to handle stolen goods in the mistaken belief that they were stolen, or the youth who attempted to have sexual intercourse with a girl aged 16 in the mistaken belief that she was under age, or the man who went through a marriage ceremony in the mistaken belief that he was still married to his first wife but who had, unknown to him, in fact died.

The Law Commission came to the conclusion that such acts should not be brought within the ambit of attempt.

The Bill sought to exclude from the ambit of attempt cases in which the result which the person intended to achieve by his act was such that no offence would be committed if he achieved that result.

It was necessary to deal appropriately with those offences in which the definition required both that some act was done by the defendant and some specific state of affairs existed as well.

For example, the crime of rape required both that the defendant had sexual intercourse and that the woman did not consent. The question was really one of knowledge. What degree of knowledge as to the victim's lack of consent must the defendant have?

It was proposed that while it would be the function of a judge to decide whether or not actions with which a defendant was charged were capable of constituting an attempt it would be the function of a jury to decide whether the defendant's action actually constituted an attempt.

The Bill fulfilled the clear wish of the House expressed in the select committee report and reflected in the speeches made by MPs in the debate last June that "sus" should be repealed.

The Bill also ensured, by closing particular loopholes in the law, that repeal would not deprive the public of the degree of protection. Nor would it leave the police without adequate powers to fulfil their expectation.

It was also an important step forward in the process of codifying and clarifying the present common law.

Clause on interference with cars disliked

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab) said the Opposition did not propose to vote against the second reading of the Bill. It accepted the need to amend the law of attempt and welcomed the repeal of Section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824.

But the Opposition had the strongest reservations about the Bill's proposals concerning interference with motor vehicles which it feared would perpetuate many of the features of the old "sus" law which were both intellectually disreputable and socially disruptive.

The concern and criticism was that that part of the Bill depended far too little on actions and far too much on intentions. The debate on the Bill must be concerned with that precise distinction.

The Opposition's attitude to the Bill was based on two specific principles. First, as put forward by the Law Commission, in its report on attempt, it was a fundamental principle of law that it should not seek to penalize the mere intention to commit a crime, which the Opposition clearly endorsed.

Second, the basis as to whether a crime had or had not been committed should be an objective test. He shared the Government's view, as represented in Clause 1, that the offence of attempt must involve more than a mere preparatory act.

He also shared the Government's view that the crime of attempt was possible even though the attempted crime was, in some cases, incapable of being carried out.

Clearly a man who attempted to steal from an empty pocket and manifested that attempt by some physical action was guilty of more than intention itself. The man had taken positive steps to commit an offence which he believed to be possible and clearly there must be some sanction against an overt, physical act.

The "sus" law had existed for far too long. On the available evidence, while Metropolitan Police regarded it as essential for the prevention of crime in their area in other areas the "sus" provision had not been regarded as essential and was rarely used.

The main issue was the undesirability of penalizing for intent alone and the related problem concerning how such intent was detected and proved. It was wholly undesirable for the law to be dependent on one man's judgment about what was going on in another man's mind. The passing away of the "sus" law was to be applauded.

Many of the young men prosecuted under this law were left with a deep sense of grievance.

There was little evidence to suggest that the areas where it was used had any special need of the power. The pattern of "sus" prosecutions in London varied from district to district.

In areas in which "sus" had been used, the Metropolitan area in particular, enormous damage had been done to community relations. The black population in general, and the London black population in particular, felt that the "sus" law bore disproportionately on them. Statistically at least, there was no doubt that to a degree that was true.

He believed that outright repeal would help to improve relations between the police and the minority communities. The abolition of "sus" was a sign of the Government's genuine wish and proper duty to remove the fears of discrimination and harassment of the black community irrespective of how justified and real those fears might be.

Clause 9 (Interference with vehicles) seemed an unfortunate proposal to add to the Bill. Its proposals were built on one of the objectionable ingredients of any law of intention. It was concerned with intention to gain access to a motor vehicle or trailer.

It was difficult to reconcile Clause 9 and its particular proposal with the general statement concerning attempt in Clause 1. The statement said that for an act to constitute an offence it needed to be more than preparatory; something positive needed to be done.

The world was full of boys and young men who tampered with car door handles, who interfered with vehicles without any malicious or criminal intent, who did not intend to gain access to the vehicle or anything carried in it who did not propose to steal it or from it, or even to sleep in it.

If a youth were seen in New Palace Yard touching the Cadillac owned by an Opposition MP, a police officer who observed him touching the vehicle would have to decide whether he was touching it, manipulating the door handles, running his fingers on the paint work out of interest due to reverential awe or with the intention of gaining access.

The danger of Clause 9 was the need for interpretation of every action; the necessity to make a judgment about what a suspected person intended to do.

He hoped the Bill would get its second reading but it would do so without the full hearted support of the Opposition.

Mr Percy Grieve (Solihull, C) said that he had grave reservations about Part II of the Bill. The Vagrancy Act 1824 was passed because of the street crime in nineteenth century London. But street crime in London and other great cities was now on a scale which could not then have been imagined.

In 1979 there were 11,000 cases of robbery and theft with violence on the streets of London. Was this a time to repeal a branch of the law which was protective and preventative?

A further clause should be introduced to protect the innocent citizen against the night prowler. Otherwise this Bill would diminish the protection which citizens were entitled to expect from the Government.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L) said repeal of the "sus" law—although to be welcomed—would not by itself remove many of the community relations problems which existed. One of the most important things police could do was to make their presence seen, so he welcomed attempts to strengthen forces and increase numbers on the beat.

Mr John Wheeler (City of Westminster, Paddington, C), chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee subcommittee which investigated the "sus" law, said the committee welcomed its repeal, not least because of the wide measure of agreement from those who gave evidence.

The answer to the relationship between the police and the community rested in enhancing contact between them, particularly in encouraging members of the ethnic community to join the police service and participate in policing the community in which they resided.

Members of ethnic minorities joining the Metropolitan Police were gradually increasing in number, but were still inadequate if the minority community in London was to feel and believe by the evidence of their own eyes that the Metropolitan Police was truly representative of all the citizens of London.

Mr Ronald Brown (Hackney, South and Shoreditch, Lab) said he was delighted that Section 4 of the Vagrancy Act was to be abolished. But in London the outcry against the "sus" laws was often about Section 66 of the Metropolitan Police Act 1839, the "stop, search and detain" law. Continued use of Section 66 would continue to give rise to the accusation that the "sus" laws were still in operation.

Mr Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C) said while "sus" should go he believed it had been made into a much bigger monster than it ever was. On the evidence of numbers of cases it had been wholly wrong to suggest that "sus" had been some monstrous imposition by the Metropolitan police force in particular on racial minorities or unemployed people.

Mr Alexander Lyon (York, Lab) said the clause covering interference with motor vehicles was redolent with the kind of objections and difficulties that brought the "sus" law into disrepute. It would be used by the police in the same way and have the same effect.

Mr Warren Hawksley (The Wrekin, C) said they must give the police as much support as they could and not weaken their position. He feared that having written this law out of the statute book, pressure could then be exerted over a wider area.

Mr George Cunningham, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Islington, South and Finsbury, Lab) said that under the Bill certain behaviour which at this moment was not criminal even under "sus" would be criminal. With all its faults "sus" required that two overt acts should be committed, but under the Bill only one action would be sufficient.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office (Royal Tunbridge Wells, C) said the Government would consider whether it was possible to limit the vehicles misuse to an arrestable offence. It would have the effect of enabling trial by jury to be opted for.

The fundamental objection to the clause was that it enabled the arrest of an accused person on the ground that he had a certain intent.

The Bill was read a second time.

New approach on Namibia is suggested

House of Lords

Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said he would consider a suggestion by Lord Brockway (Lab) to achieve a ceasefire leading to Namibian independence now that the conference on this had failed.

Lord Carrington had said: The British Government is deeply disappointed by the failure to achieve agreement on a date for a ceasefire in March, leading to independence for Namibia by the end of 1981.

It proved impossible to reach agreement at the Geneva meeting in view of the conviction of the delegation led by the South African Administrator-General that it would be "premature" to agree on an implementation date. This is an especially regrettable setback after the great efforts of the United Nations, the Western Five and the Front Line States to meet the reasonable concerns of South Africa and the internal parties.

We support the chairman's closing appeal to those concerned to reconsider their position. The Five will review the position with the other participants in the negotiations and we shall discuss the problem with the new American Administration.

Meanwhile, the progress made so far in preparing the ground for a settlement should not be thrown away.

Lord Brockway: Swapo, with the support of the Front Line States, has proposed that United Nations support for Swapo should be withdrawn when a date is fixed for the ceasefire. Would it be possible for the General Assembly of the United Nations to carry a motion to that effect? If they did, it would be difficult for South Africa and the DTA to resist it.

Lord Carrington: I would like to look at that suggestion. No doubt, one of the factors which affected the South African decision to say that the implementation was premature was their feeling that the United Nations was not impartial.

Aviation security levy kept at present level

There were no plans to reduce the rate of the aviation security levy, Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade, indicated during exchanges on the cost of security provisions for airline passengers. The levy would remain at its present level for the time being.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) asked to what extent the minister thought that the charge of £4 for a round trip airline ticket really represented the true economic cost of providing airport security.

Airports (he said) other than those run by the British Airports Authority who employ private security companies need to charge rather less than 50 per cent of that figure to cover their costs.

It is time either to look at the charges of the BAA or at the whole question of the airport security levy.

Mr Eyre: Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary for Trade, will consider these points. Centralized security at Heathrow Terminal Three should lead to staff reductions and similar arrangements at Gatwick are being considered. This should help to keep down the cost of security.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down Off UU): In view of the additional cost and disruption to services caused by the unnecessary practice of flying British shuttle crews from Belfast to Glasgow every night so they may escape the dangers to which 1,500,000 of their fellow citizens are exposed to, will he take steps to end this nonsense in everybody's interest?

Mr Eyre: I will ask Lord Trefgarne to consider this. The changes recently made in regard to flights to Northern Ireland have, I believe, improved security and at the same time introduced greater convenience to passengers.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C): Why are there no plans to return these security tasks to private enterprise bearing in mind the disproportionate rise in costs since the responsibility was passed over to BAA?

Mr Eyre: The system of financing security costs does enable my department to keep a closer check on the standard of security arrangements. I will certainly ask Lord Trefgarne to consider Mr McCrindle's proposal carefully.

Mr Clinton Davis, an Opposition spokesman on trade (Hackney, Central, Lab): The standards of training by virtually all the private security companies before the changeover took place were grossly inadequate.

Mr Eyre: I appreciate that the proper standard of skill is necessary. I believe it has been established widely at other airports. Lord Trefgarne will certainly have regard to that point.

Mr Clement Freud (Isle of Ely, L): Will he think carefully before committing the country to the whole range of pat-down personnel as you find in America where you tend to be searched and manhandled by almost anyone with a flash on his shoulder?

Mr Eyre: He is going far wider than the question which relates to important security matters concerning the safety of air passengers.

Deep sea mining at crucial development stage

House of Lords

The question the Government had to answer was why deep sea mining deserved to be picked out and made the subject of interim national legislation, Lord Kennet, for the Opposition, said during a debate on the Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) Bill.

The Earl of Gowrie, Minister of State for Employment, moving the second reading of the Bill, said it was to regulate the mining of what were usually described as the hard mineral resources found on the sea bed. The United Nations conference on the law of the sea was trying to agree on an international regime to cover such mining.

It was the Government's hope that when agreement was reached this international regime would supersede national measures. Meanwhile the Bill was needed to encourage Britain's own industry to maintain its vital programmes of research and development.

Lord Kennet said the United Nations conference had at last virtually agreed upon a text. It would be months, if not a year, before that was signed. After that, to judge by precedent, it would probably be about 10 years before it obtained enough ratifications to come into effect: the period this Bill was designed to plug.

In his opinion and that of many people it would be of much more national benefit to pass into national law, for example, the 12-mile limit on territorial waters. Was it certain that deep sea mining was so important that it had to be pulled out and rushed through, at risk of upsetting the apple cart?

Lord Erroll of Hale (C) said he was chairman of Consolidated Gold Fields which was part of an international consortium exploring the possibilities of deep sea mining.

This was not a bonanza situation like North Sea oil or gas. The prospects, though interesting, were not dazzling. Much hard work and expenditure of "risk" money was required, with possible returns only many years later.

The developed countries would carry those risks and do the work. He urged those who had at heart the best interests of the developing countries, the interests of those wishing to extract natural resources without damaging the environment, not to make the conditions too harsh or onerous.

If they did the minerals would stay at the bottom of the ocean and the developing countries on their own would never bring them to the surface.

Lord Campbell of Croy (C) said that at a time of world recession they could view with some optimism this new opportunity which should produce jobs here and work for United Kingdom companies at home and abroad.

The Earl of Gowrie said he had been asked why deep sea mining should be picked out for national legislation and what the hurry was.

Deep sea mining was at a crucial stage and substantial investments were at stake. Without some action now this valuable development would slow down or cease altogether.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Felixstowe Dock and Railway (No 2) Bill was read a second time; The International Organizations Bill was read the third time and passed; and the Energy Conservation Bill passed the committee stage.

House adjourned, 9.00 pm.

Archaeology report

Hambledon Hill: Defences for herds

By Norman Hammond

Archaeology Correspondent

A large defensive enclosure more than 4,500 years old has been recognized on Hambledon Hill, Dorset, as the result of intensive survey and excavation over the past five years. An area of more than 125 acres is enclosed by a double ditch and rampart on the easier approaches, and limited by steep slopes elsewhere. Some 2,700 yards of these earthworks have been traced, and wherever they have been tested by excavation it is clear that the rampart originally formed a wall faced front and rear with vertical timbers.

Gaps in the rampart were fitted with timber gateways to seal Hambledon Hill from attack from below; evidence of fighting has been found, in the form of the skeleton of a youth with a flint arrowhead in his chest.

The discovery of the neolithic complex stemmed from an excavation begun in 1974 to investigate the "causewayed camp" on top of the hill, South-east of the prominent Iron Age hill fort.

Such enclosures have been excavated and studied since early this century, and have been variously interpreted as cattle kraals, fortified settlements, ceremonial and ritual precincts; the work at Hambledon Hill suggests that, while a ceremonial and funerary function for the actual enclosure seems likely, domestic and defensive earthworks also existed, and among the assets defended were substantial herds of cattle, probably kept for milk rather than meat.

The causewayed camp, so called because of the quarry pits which were dug to provide the material for the rampart, has yielded radiocarbon dates which place its construction around 2700 BC in radiocarbon years. In calendar years the enclosure would date to about 3300 BC.

The quarry pits had strange offerings deposited on their floors, organic substances apparently in containers, perhaps skin bags. Intact human skulls and child burials were also placed there. After a period of natural silting the pits were reopened, and the subsequent fill included many fragments of human and animal bone.

The areas of ditch so far sampled, about 20 per cent of the whole, have yielded remains from at least 70 people, suggesting that at least 350 in all were represented. The director of the Hambledon Hill excavations since their inception, Dr Roger Mercer of Edinburgh University, suggests that the area within the rampart was used for the exposure of human corpses; the discovery of the articulated thighs, pelvis and lower spine of a man is best explained by the removal of part of a rotting body that had fallen apart at waist and knees.

Erosion and modern ploughing have removed the entire prehistoric land surfaces and bedrock to a depth of about 18in, so that only the bases of deep pits survive to be excavated. The original disposition of the skeletal material has been lost.

Those pits containing objects had artefacts associated with prestige, including pottery imported from the Lizard Head area some 170 miles to the South-west in Cornwall, and polished stone axes from greater distances. Dr Mercer thinks that a ritual function is consistent with the evidence.

Just outside the causewayed enclosure stood a long barrow, a characteristic funerary monument of the third millennium BC; it, too, had been ploughed out of existence, but its flanking ditches had been repeatedly recut, and filled with animal bone. They, as well as the enclosure ditches, were finally blocked with flint cairns around 2000 BC and fell out of use. The close association and contemporaneity of a long barrow with an area for corpse exposure might help to explain the commonly observed presence in barrows of only some body parts.

The most important recent discovery has been the band of encircling earthworks which cut off the hill top from the Vale of Blackmore: within that big area the 19 acres of the causewayed enclosure form only a minor part. A smaller enclosure on the Stepleton spur of the hill may well have been residential, and fortified.

The skeleton with the arrowhead in the chest was found in one of the ditch terminals here, and the abundant burnt material in the ditch suggest that the enclosure was destroyed by fire and force not long after it was built.

Hambledon thus provides a parallel to the destruction of a similar fortified enclosure on Crickley Hill (*The Times*, November 11, 1977), and raises more emphatically the question of how far the early farming society of the third millennium BC can be seen as a low-density pioneering expansion into pristine land.

Fossil soils from under long barrows have shown that the landscape was open and grazed, pastoral country supporting groups of people large enough to build impressive structures such as the ramparts of Hambledon Hill. The new evidence seems to show that competition for desired resources, whether land, cattle or something else, was already prevalent enough for defences to be needed.

The great area enclosed by the outer ramparts of Hambledon Hill would protect, and provide emergency grazing for, the herds which are attested by the animal bones from the site; even so, both the Stepleton enclosure and the Crickley fort show that these defences were tried, and found wanting.

Hambledon Hill: A Neolithic Landscape. Interim report. By Roger Mercer, Edinburgh University Press. £2.50.

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WEST EUROPE

By-election result indicates that Mitterrand-Giscard contest would be close run thing

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 19

Political analysts have been examining the results of the second run-off ballot of yesterday's by-election at Les Andelys, in the Normandy department of Eure, to discover how M Jacques Tailleur, the Gaullist candidate, beat M Marcel Larmanou, the communist mayor of Gisors, by a comfortable margin of nearly 5 per cent.

The lessons are obvious: When the Gaullists and Giscardians of the Government majority are united, they can beat the left; and when the colours of the left are borne by the Communists, the voting discipline of some Socialists is not all that it should be.

This was the last electoral test before the presidential elections 100 days off, and the Giscardian UDF, which made a great effort between the two ballots to rally the doubters and the abstainers, has been rewarded.

The result was by no means a foregone conclusion. Although Les Andelys has been a safe Gaullist seat since 1958, the total of votes for leftwing candidates in the first ballot exceeded the Government majority by nearly 15 per cent. It was a big handicap to overcome. But then neither the Communists, nor the Socialists, did very much to encourage so called "republican discipline" among their supporters, the first in the words of M George Marchais, the Communist Party leader, openly suspecting the second of treasons and stratagems with the right; and the Socialists accusing the Communists of deliberately scuppering the left for their own advantage.

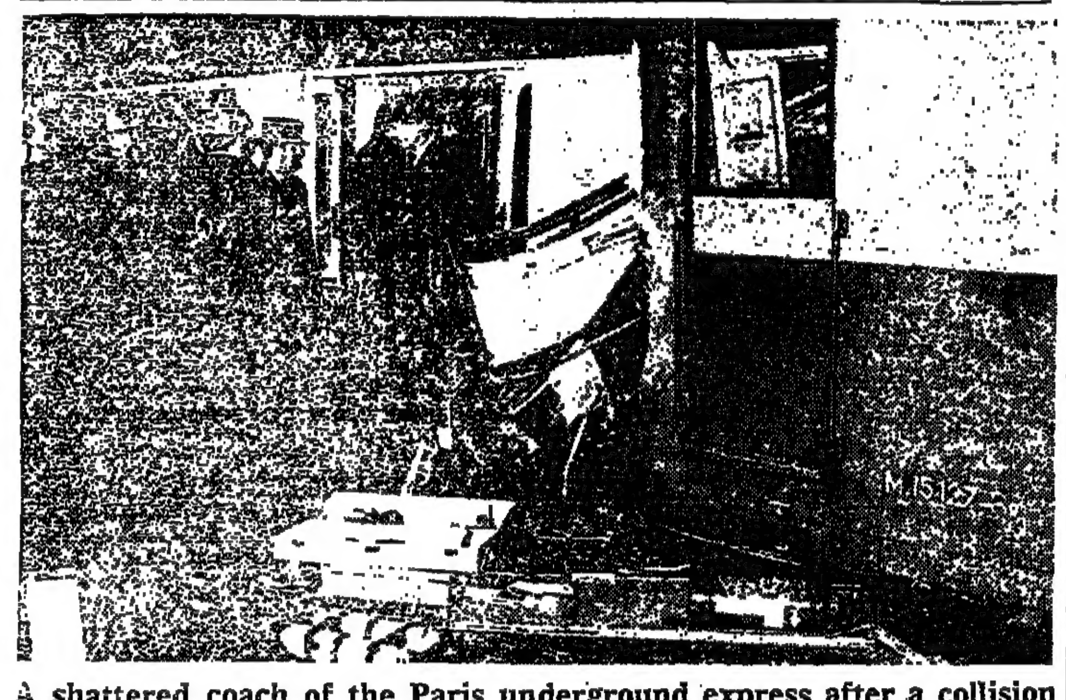
Things being what they are, as General de Gaulle used to say, they could have gone far worse for the left, most of the Socialist voters overcoming their distaste of the Communist candidate to rally to his side, save for a thousand or so, who abstained, or switched to the Gaullist.

The left had done well in the earlier series of by-elections last autumn because the Socialists were carrying its colours into battle, and the Gaullists and Giscardians were fighting among themselves. Naturally, the Communists refuse to see it that way. M Roland Leroy, the editor in chief of *L'Humanité*, the Communist organ, and an influential member of the party, declared today that the setbacks at Les Andelys proved the "existence of a consensus between Gaullists, the UDF, and the Socialists", and was due to the violent anti-Communist campaign of the Socialist press.

The Socialists have given tit for tat. M Charles Hernu, a member of the Socialist executive, remarked that "the Communist Party is thus paying for its brutal and anachronistic anti-Socialist campaign".

All this might seem very parish pump were it not for the lessons that it holds for the presidential elections. If, as seems most unlikely, M Marchais were the champion of the left in the second ballot of the presidential elections, it would not stand a ghost of a chance of beating President Giscard d'Estaing; but if it is M François Mitterrand, the odds are, as things stand, pretty even.

The Socialist leaders' candidature is likely to be overwhelmingly endorsed by the party congress at Créteil, near Paris, next Saturday.



A shattered coach of the Paris underground express after a collision at Auber station yesterday. One person died and 71 were hurt.

OVERSEAS

Settlement ploy by hardliners of Knesset

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 19

Hardline ministers in the Israeli Government are proceeding with a controversial plan to increase the number and strength of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories in order to limit the possibilities of any being dismantled by a future Labour administration.

It was disclosed today that two new settlements are soon to be established in the occupied West Bank, while an attempt to set up three others is being challenged by Professor Yigael Yadin, the Deputy Prime Minister, who leads the Democratic Movement, the most dovish group in the coalition.

In *Lebanon* Professor Yadin said tonight that he had exercised his right under the original coalition agreement to appeal against two planned settlements near the occupied Arab town of Hebron and another near Jenin. A decision will now be taken by the Knesset's influential foreign affairs and defence committee.

"I used my right of appeal because these three settlements are all planned in areas of concentrated Arab population and my party opposes settlements of that type," Professor Yadin told me.

Political observers speculate that Professor Yadin's objections will be overruled by the Parliamentary committee and that approval for the three contested settlements will be given before the end of the month.

Of the two new settlements definitely to be set up before polling day, one will be built near an Arab village about five miles from Tel Aviv's main airport. The other is to be established near Ariel, the rapidly expanding Jewish settlement town which was named after Mr Ariel Sharon, the Minister for Agriculture.

At yesterday's crucial Cabinet meeting which decided to advance the election date to July, Mr Sharon argued forcibly that the Government had assumed responsibility for many thousands of Jewish settlers since 1977. It had to strengthen their position as much as possible, he stressed, both for their personal safety and to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Minister, a former general in the Israel Army, also insisted that the coalition should do everything during its remaining months in office to avoid any *volte face* on settlement policy.

Soviet anxieties about Mr Reagan temper jubilation over President Carter's departure

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 19

The Soviet attitude to President Carter and his Administration as they leave office can be summed up in the crude phrase: "Good riddance to bad rubbish." Indeed over the past few weeks the Russians have taken every opportunity to consign the outgoing American leader, in the Tass cliché, "to the dustbin of history".

Commentators have dwelt on the failures of the Carter Administration, which they say led to the President's decisive rejection by the electorate. These include his economic policy, prices and unemployment, and his attempts to shift the burden of his difficulties on to the working people.

But the main failure for which he is now paying, the Russians assert, was his foreign policy, especially his "adventurism" and attempt to lead the country back into a cold war with the Soviet Union.

Izvestia said a few days ago that, while talking profusely about human rights, Mr Carter supported the racist regime in South Africa and dictators in Central America. While signing the Salt 2 treaty last year, he was negotiating with his Nato allies on stationing new missiles in Europe. His Government's real intentions were clear from the Presidential Directive 59, allowing the possibility of limited nuclear war, the formation of the rapid deployment corps, and the proposal for a record defence budget in spite of earlier promises to cut defence spending.

"This reversal has been accompanied by the vociferous campaign around the so-called 'Soviet menace' and a build-up of chauvinistic passions in the United States," the paper said.

It noted that he had shelved ratification of Salt, broken off trade relations with the Soviet Union, called for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics and aggravated the international situation.

The list sums up the Russians' complaints about the outgoing President, whom they never understood, distrusted and ended up disliking with an almost personal animosity. But above all it was Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, his national security adviser, whom they hated, seeing him as the hardline anti-Soviet adviser in the President's entourage.

Tass recently singled him out as the leading proponent of strategic encirclement of the Soviet Union through a global alliance between Nato, China and Japan.

It added: "History has not given Brzezinski any more time for the implementation of this crazy project. His anti-Sovietism has proved to be not only his own undoing but also that of the entire Carter Administration. Seven days from now this self-styled 'theoretician' is departing for the political rubbish dump".

But as the Russians gleefully await the departure of the Democratic Administration, a fresh worry has begun to surface: the realization that not all Mr Ronald Reagan's tough talking can be put down to election rhetoric, and that the new President may prove to be as difficult to deal with as his predecessor, if not worse.

The press bent over backwards to give Mr Reagan a cautious welcome after his election in the hope that "realism" would prevail when he came to power. But recently commentators have been preparing public opinion here for a new period of bad relations.

They are blaming President Carter for this, accusing him of using his last days in office to tie his successor's hands.

So far the Russians have been careful not to criticize Mr Reagan personally, but they have vigorously attacked Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, his nominee as American representative to the United Nations, for her support of the Government of El Salvador.

The Russians know that the causes of their present bad relations with America—such as Afghanistan—will not vanish with the Carter Administration. They will do their best to give Mr Reagan a honeymoon period, in the hope that they can get on better with him than Mr Carter. But if this turns sour, as they already appear to forecast, he can soon expect the rough treatment the Russians meted out to his predecessor.

Approval for most of new US Cabinet

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 19

True to its word, the Senate today paved the way for most of the new Cabinet to take its place soon after President-elect Ronald Reagan is sworn into office.

At meetings on Capitol Hill today, various Senate committees gave the overwhelming support to several nominations to the Cabinet, including Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary-designate, and Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary-designate. The full Senate is due to meet shortly after Mr Reagan's inauguration at noon tomorrow to give its formal blessing to nearly all members of the Cabinet.

The exceptions will be Mr Alexander Haig, Mr Reagan's nomination for Secretary of State, and Mr Raymond Donovan, the Labour Secretary-designate. Mr Haig's formal confirmation by the full Senate is expected to be held up until Wednesday because at least one member of the Upper House requires time to make a long speech condemning his nomination.

Mr Donovan's confirmation is likely to be delayed into next week while senators continue to investigate allegations that his New Jersey construction firm made dubious payments to a local trade union for industrial peace.

All the prospective Cabinet gathered today at Blair House, Mr Reagan's temporary lodgings across the street from the White House, for another in a long series of preparatory policy meetings. Their deliberations were expected to focus on economic matters which the President-elect has made the chief priority of his Administration.

During these final days before his inauguration, Mr Reagan has been sandwiching his work sessions between more enjoyable pursuits like feasting privately at some of Washington's best restaurants and attending the occasional public event.

But since the end of last week when it seemed clear that the hostages in Iran might finally be returning home, the President-elect has had to take dent Carter. Whenever he has poked his nose out of Blair House in front of the television cameras he has inevitably been asked whether he has any new information about the fate of the hostages.

The inauguration ceremony and all its trappings, which began last Friday evening and will end with a series of balls in the early hours of Wednesday morning, is costing a record \$8m (£3.3m).

The Republican Party and presidents have a reputation for organizing extravaganzas like inaugurations with minute precision, but so complicated have the arrangements become this year that there have been all sorts of unfortunate mishaps. The worst has been the disappearance of a block of tickets for inaugural functions into the works of the computer charged with the task of allocating them to their owners.

Suzuki tour dampens Asean expectations

From David Watts
Bangkok, Jan 19

Long before his arrival in Bangkok, Mr Zenko Suzuki, the *Japanese Prime Minister*, had been expected to outline a new approach to the region at the conclusion of his tour.

As he progressed through the five countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) individual facets of his policy became clearer, most of them centring on economic questions.

As each of those facets has emerged it has somehow wetted the imagination that there would emerge in Bangkok a new, more active Japanese approach to the affairs of the region, particularly in the political field. But those who were expecting the sum of parts revealed during the tour to emerge as a much greater whole have been disappointed.

The Japanese Prime Minister made a new call to the Vietnamese to respond "immediately and positively" to the demands of the international community for a conference on Kampuchea and made it clear that Japanese assistance in the rebuilding of Indo-China would follow any settlement.

But Japan, which has been having extensive diplomatic contacts with the Chinese over Kampuchea, was not able to point to any new ways round the Indo-Chinese impasse.

One senior Japanese diplomat told *The Times* that Tokyo had been expecting to be in a position to announce a *fresh initiative* on Kampuchea but had encountered no enthusiasm for it during the tour.

In talks with the Asean leaders the Japanese have apparently been trying to persuade them to abandon the idea of a United Nations conference on Kampuchea, which the Soviet-block countries have said they will boycott, and for which Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary - General, shows little enthusiasm.

The Japanese feel that the Asean countries are wasting their time in continuing to press for such a conference when it is quite plain that the principal parties, the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh Government, would not be present. A more viable alternative, Tokyo felt, would have been a smaller gathering, perhaps under the aegis of the Japan-Kampuchea Friendship Association or some such regional organization.

The Asean countries, however, would hear nothing of it and told the Japanese that they were determined to go ahead with the idea of the larger conference.

Thus deprived of any new political initiative to announce in Bangkok, the Japanese party had been emphasizing that Japan, as a new, non-permanent member of the Security Council, will continue to press on with its efforts to find a solution to the Kampuchean problem through more conventional diplomatic channels.

Several times the Japanese Prime Minister has promised that Tokyo will continue to try to persuade the Chinese to desist from their support for the Khmer Rouge in Kampuchea so that Vietnam's oft-quoted complaint about Chinese pressure will be invalidated.

The Japanese are also giving more financial help for the resettlement of Thai villagers displaced from the Kampuchean border region.

Mr Suzuki, answering questions at a press conference in *the Thai capital today, said that* he had never envisaged his tour breaking new ground but rather as a visit which would seek to consolidate and enhance Japan's relationship with Asean.

If, ultimately, a Suzuki doctrine emerges from the visit, it will take the form of the kind of fundamental approach that Mr Suzuki, as an agriculturalist, delights in: economic cooperation with the Asean countries, technical assistance, transfer of technology and cultural exchanges. But then that is scarcely new.

Survival of British monk 'a miracle'

Mendoza, Argentina, Jan 19.—A British Benedictine monk walked for eight days without food down Mount Aconcagua despite getting lost near the summit. Doctors who examined him last night called his survival "a miracle".

A spokesman at Mendoza's military hospital said Father Piers Grant-Ferris, aged 47, was in excellent condition except for a single frostbitten toe.

The monk, an experienced climber, got separated from his companion, Ian Tattersal, on January 9. They descended after planting a small iron crucifix at Aconcagua's summit.

As military rescue patrols searched the 22,965-ft high mountain's north side, Father Grant-Ferris apparently meandered down the eastern face. A goat farmer near the village of Polvoderas, at 9,842ft, saw him walking along a stream on Saturday and summoned an Army mule patrol.

A family spokeswoman said the climber told his mother, Lady Harvington, at his hospital bedside: "It was my faith that brought me down." I walked for four straight days and nights before sleeping.

The monk was in a cheerful mood at the hospital, blessing everyone in sight.

"It's a miracle he's even alive," a hospital spokesman said.—AP.

Mr Marcos says he may relinquish power

Manila, Jan 19.—President Marcos today said for the first time he might step down from power. He announced this in a speech denying that the United States or public opinion in his country forced him to end the eight-year-old martial regime last Friday.

The President gave no date for the ending of his reign. He has ruled the Philippines for 15 years. But he said: "There comes a time when a leader has to leave".

In his state-of-the-nation address before the interim National Assembly, he said he repealed his 1972 martial law declaration because "all factors seemed to be favourable," despite what he called "overwhelming public opinion to retain martial law."

The United States, he said, "never exerted pressure for either the proclamation of martial law or its lifting, popular newspaper accounts notwithstanding."

"Washington had 'at times submitted requests concerning alleged treatment of political prisoners, but this was the most ever done."

President Marcos reaffirmed his pledge that a full National Assembly would be elected in about two years.

He said full legislative powers would now rest with the interim National Assembly.—Agence France-Presse.

Hongkong police think Triad control broken

From Richard Hughes
Hongkong, Jan 19

With more than 1,200 suspected Triad bosses now under surveillance, the Hongkong police believe they have this traditional problem of the Chinese secret societies finally under control.

Police experts have infiltrated most of the 33 active Triads, whose total membership is about 80,000 although only an estimated 10 per cent are engaged in crime.

According to Superintendent Ben Munford of the police Triad Society division, the former highly disciplined criminal organizations have been "reduced to loosely-knit gangs of thugs". He said that some of the 1,200 identified bosses were well known in Hongkong and a few were millionaires.

The carefully calculated police announcement will undoubtedly spread alarm among unidentified bosses.

"There is no international Mafia-type Triad network with headquarters in Hongkong," Superintendent Munford said. "Criminals in Chinese communities abroad use traditional Triad names for the same reason as their counterparts in Hongkong. These names inspire as great a fear in an overseas Chinese community as they do in Hongkong."

China snubs Dutch for Taiwan sale

From Robert Schull
Amsterdam, Jan 19

China has carried out its threat to reduce diplomatic relations with The Netherlands from ambassadorial level to that of chargé d'affaires. Peking had warned the Dutch Government that it would do so unless the Dutch revoked their decision to sell two submarines to Taiwan.

The centre-right coalition of Christian Democrats and Liberals, led by Mr Andries van Agt, last Friday, stood by its decision to allow the sale despite the fact that The Netherlands formally acknowledged Taiwan's status as a Chinese province in 1972.

At a press conference Mr Shen Zhihuan, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in The Hague, said that if the Netherlands went ahead with the sale present and future trade relations between the two countries would suffer severely. Shell, which is prospecting for oil in China, has been told that under the present circumstances it is not advisable for it to pursue its activities.

The Chinese diplomat did not rule out the possibility of a complete break in diplomatic relations. He added that the United States would suffer a similar fate to The Netherlands if it sold weapons to Taiwan.

Mr Christoph van der Klaauw, the Dutch Foreign Minister, has categorically denied that The Netherlands has been influenced by the United States in its decision to sell submarines to Taiwan. He also denied that influence had been exerted by advisers to President-elect Ronald Reagan.

Peg on green pound inflates UK food bill

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 19

The European Community's tax on Britain's food imports rose to a record 13.5 per cent today and could go up to as much as 14.6 per cent next week in response to sterling's inexorable rise on the foreign exchange markets.

The increase in the tax results from the refusal by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, to seek a readjustment of the "green pound", the special exchange rate used in translating EEC farm prices into sterling to keep it in line with the soaring pound.

One consequence of this policy is that British consumers are being denied an average cut in food prices conservatively estimated as 2.6 per cent. It also adds to the British contribution to the Community budget since the proceeds of the tax are passed to Brussels.

Mr Walker's defence is that abolishing the tax by revaluing the "green pound", which would at a stroke cut EEC farm price guarantees by the full amount of the tax, would entail a *savage loss for British* farmers, outweighing what he sees as a marginal gain for consumers.

Mr Walker also argues that the import tax, which acts as a corresponding subsidy on Britain's food exports, protects the competitiveness of at least one sector of her export trade.

Whatever the merit of these arguments, the policy pursued by Mr Walker could present the Government with a serious dilemma at the annual negotiations on fixing EEC farm prices.

Assuming that the pound stays strong, Britain will undoubtedly come under severe pressure to revalue the "green pound" from other member states which resent the competitive advantage it affords her farmers.

However, any rise in the "green pound" will correspondingly reduce the benefit to British farmers of any general increase in farm prices that is agreed.

Unifil loses three soldiers in Lebanon attack

Jerusalem, Jan 19.—Three Senegalese soldiers serving with the United Nations interim force in Lebanon (Unifil) were killed *today, a United Nations spokesman said.* Palestinian guerrillas were thought responsible.

The three were shot in an observation post near the village of Barish, east of the port city of Tyre.

Guerrillas also fired on a helicopter carrying the Unifil *commander, General Emmanuel Erskine of Ghana over South* Lebanon, the spokesman said. One bullet hit the helicopter but it landed safely.

A Fijian soldier wounded in a clash with Palestinians died in an Israeli hospital today, bringing the number of Unifil men killed to 54 since the force was sent to the Lebanon after an Israeli invasion in 1978.

United Nations officials said there was tension between Unifil and Palestinian guerrillas after United Nations troops disarmed several guerrilla groups on their way to attack Israel.—Reuter.

Hint of rethink on Namibia UN resolution

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 19

Mr Danie Hough, the Administrator-General of Namibia, said in Windhoek today that both South Africa and the internal political parties would have to re-evaluate the entire situation concerning the Territory" after last week's failure of the Geneva conference to agree on a date for the implementation of the United Nations settlement plan for Namibia.

Mr Hough headed the South African-led delegation, which included eight internal parties at the conference. The meeting ended after Mr Hough *announced that it was* "premature" to agree on a date for a ceasefire and the introduction of the United Nations plan.

Addressing a press conference Mr Hough said: "We will have to re-evaluate what our attitude to United Nations Resolution 435 (which embodies the settlement plan) is. I cannot say more, but I personally think we are entering a period in which there will have to be a total re-evaluation process."

This was the first indication by any of the parties which attended the Geneva conference that the United Nations plan may no longer be considered a suitable basis for settling the Territory's future. When the conference ended last Wednesday the South Africans, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), *the main internal party*, as well as the South West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), the five western powers and the black African "front line" states all reaffirmed their support for Resolution 435.

Mugabe hope: A one-day visit by Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, to Zambia today sealed an agreement that Zimbabwe hopes will bring it greater independence from South Africa (Stephen Taylor writes from Salisbury).

The visit also enabled Mr Mugabe to discuss a number of sensitive issues with President Kenneth Kaunda after a period of coolness.

Although Mr Mugabe declined to speak to the press on his return to Salisbury this afternoon, it is understood that *the agreement signed today*—to set up a joint commission of cooperation—provides for a series of development projects in the areas of transport, communications and food.

Governor's office blasted

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 19

The San Sebastian headquarters of the civil governor of Guipuzcoa, a Basque province, was blasted this morning by two rounds from a bazooka fired from a passing car. No one was hurt, police said.

The incident was the second of its type in 10 days in the Basque country. The previous attack was aimed at the civil governor's office in the northern city of Pamplona but it blew up a passing lorry instead, without injuring the driver.

In San Sebastian, "independent units" related to the military wing of the ETA wrecked a newspaper *delivery* van and its contents yesterday. Two hooded men placed firebombs inside the vehicle when its driver was delivering copies of the daily *La Gaceta del Norte*.

Paris trial of anti-Franco eight angers French left

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 19

The trial of eight anti-Franco militants which opened at the Paris assizes today has raised a storm of protest *in left-wing* and anti-Fascist quarters here. They object to the militants being tried in France for a crime which has been pardoned by the new democratic regime in Spain.

The militants are accused of kidnapping Señor Balthazar Angel Suarez, a Spanish banker, in May 1974. Some people who were held in Spain for allegedly taking part in the kidnapping have been released.

Señor Suarez, the manager of the Bank of Bilbao in Paris, was kidnapped from in front of his home at Neuilly, the smart Paris suburb, and released less than three weeks later when a ransom of 3m Francs (about £276,000) was paid. The abduction was carried out by the Gari, the internationalist revolutionary action group, as a reprisal for the execution of Señor Puig Antich, an anti-Franco militant.

The Gari said at the time that even if Señor Suarez was not a strong Franco supporter, he was a "conscious representative of the Spanish Government". It was suggested at the time by defence lawyers that the ransom had been paid to a certain Señor Innocienzo Martinez, still at large, who might have been an agent provocateur of the Franco regime instructed to infiltrate anti-Franco organizations.

Ten people were arrested and charged but were released, pending trial, in 1975. Eight reported to different Paris prisons this morning to attend the trial. In a statement to Agence France-Presse, they said they had reported "to appear as defendants in a trial which is all the more absurd and scandalous that it is we, the anti-Franco element, who are *regarded as criminals, and not* Franco".

A British defendant, Miss Jean Weir, aged 36, did not appear, neither did Señor Innocienzo Martinez. Madame Danelle Hass, aged 27, who is pregnant, was allowed to appear only at the opening of the trial.

Mediation move to end strike of Alitalia pilots

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 19

Signor Franco Foschi, the Labour Minister, is to mediate in a week-long pilot's strike which forced the Italian flag-carrier *Alitalia today to cancel* most international and domestic services.

He has summoned to a meeting tomorrow evening representatives of the company and of the independent pilots' trade union, Anpac. The union is claiming an estimated 70 per cent salary increase.

Alitalia has kept skeleton domestic services going with the small number of pilots belonging to the three main trade union confederations—CGIL, CISL and UIL—which do not back the strike.

After announcing yesterday that all international flights *were* cancelled, Alitalia said today that during the week it has managed to arrange three return flights to Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires and one to New York.

Officials at London Heathrow said it was unlikely that there would be Alitalia flights to Italy this week.

Delhi press detect racism in Nationality Bill

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, Jan 19

Britain cannot escape the charge of racial discrimination in the British Nationality Bill published last week, *The Times of India* says in a leading article today.

The Bill shows that the British Government does not wish to fulfil the obligations of an imperial past and a multi-racial future, the newspaper says.

"The Government seems to feel that Britain's interests are best served by pandering to irrational fears about the 'influx' of non-white immigrants, when in fact the number coming in does not add up to more than the merest trickle."

Under the heading "UK's racist law" the *Hindustan Times* says in a leading article that the apprehensions of immigrants from Commonwealth countries have been realized.

"Racial discrimination, by whatever name or device, is still discrimination of the most reprehensible kind. The Bill formalizes and legitimates racism towards people of a different hue which reflects the xenophobic paranoia that afflicts a section of British society today.

"The proposed three tiers of citizenship are a fine sieve which will allow into Britain only those of the desired racial stock."

The newspaper says that *de facto* second class citizenship is something to which Indians in white-majority countries have to reconcile themselves.

"But for a Government of a country that prides itself on fair play to legalize the concept of second class citizenship is a radical development, bound to lower Britain's international prestige."

The Statesman, however, taking a different view, says the Bill amounts to an unexceptionable attempt to cast off the residual obligations of an empire that long ago ceased to exist.

The law, not really overhauled since 1948, was a standing invitation to immigrants whose numbers were only kept down through executive decisions that were far from honest, and by even more objectionably obstructive tactics at ports of entry, *The Statesman* says.

"Resentment aroused by these methods would have been more easily dispelled if the United Kingdom had claimed the same rights of entry, residence and citizenship exercised by all other countries.

"But London chose to maintain the fiction that the Commonwealth constituted an indivisible union, all of whose people were equal subjects.

"This open door policy was partly the product of an embarrassing awareness of the assurance given to British subjects of Asian descent when East African countries became independent. But a more compelling reason was Britain's desire to project itself as the home of liberalism and the centre of a multinational association where all citizens were assured of welcome, so long as too many people were not tempted to take up the invitation.

"When London found its claims were being too liberally interpreted it was forced to invent permits and vouchers. Further complications arose with membership of the Common Market."

Roads closed in Kansas City after rail crash

Kansas City, Missouri, Jan 19.—The collision of two trains carrying toxic and flammable chemicals in a railyard near the business district forced a limited evacuation and closed main roads into Kansas City during the morning rush hour.

The accident involved wagons carrying sodium nitrate and possibly propane. Six firemen were taken to hospital.

Police said the hazard concerned one tank containing a chemical.—UPI.

Explosion kills 10

Bogota, Jan 19.—Ten men were killed and 30 wounded in an explosion at a dam building site in Chingaza, 50 miles north-east of the Colombian capital, authorities announced.

'An unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security'

The ordeal that began in Tehran 443 days ago

Devastating defeat for Carter foreign policy when Shah was driven from throne

By Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 19

The conclusion of the long dispute between Iran and the United States over the 52 hostages held in Tehran, makes a melodramatic end to Mr Carter's presidency. Like the evacuation of Dunkirk, the recovery of the diplomats will be proclaimed as a victory when in fact it is a further reflexion of the serious defeat which Iran has constituted in American foreign policy.

The defeat was not the seizing of the embassy on November 4, 1979, it was the collapse of the Shah's regime. For the rest of his presidential term, nearly two years out of four, Jimmy Carter sat forlornly in the ruins, like Marius at Carthage. At last has come relief, and Mr Carter can return happy to Plains: The hostage crisis may have cost him re-election, but he redeemed the captives in the end.

The overthrow of the Shah, with all the consequences to Western positions in the Gulf that have followed, was a catastrophic defeat for America. Its effects were compounded by the President's reactions to the taking of the hostages.

That event was closely followed by two others that might be thought to reflect similarly on the decline of American influence.

On November 20, 1979, a Pakistani mob burnt down the American Embassy in Islamabad, with the connivance of the Pakistani Government. On December 2, 1979, a Libyan mob burnt down the American Embassy in Tripoli, under the direction of the Libyan Government.

Those episodes were handled by Washington with admirable restraint, and have left few scars. Admittedly, the seizure of the entire staff of the American Embassy in Tehran was a more serious insult. One man was killed in Islamabad, whereas in the case of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini held America hostage.

Nevertheless, Mr Carter over-re-acted, and it is hard to dispute that he did so partly out of concern for his own domestic political difficulties.

An entirely valid historical parallel is possible. In January, 1968, another election year, the USS Pueblo was seized by North Korean ships and its crew interned. President Johnson got the crew back by quiet diplomacy (they were released just before Christmas) and steadfastly refrained from playing to the gallery.

When the American Embassy in Tehran was occupied on November 4, 1978, Mr Carter's popularity was at a disastrously low ebb. The polls had persuaded Senator Edward Kennedy that the Democratic nomination was his for the asking, and he had arranged to announce his candidacy on November 7.

The date backfired on Mr Kennedy. Mr Carter exploited the political advantage of the Iranian crisis for all it was worth. He refused to campaign, preferring to stay in the White House to help the hostages. In the event it was surprising that Mr Kennedy did as well as he did.

Mr Carter won the nomination, but by the time of the Democratic Convention in August, the party was badly split and the President had dissipated all the popularity he had won in the early days of the crisis by appearing "presidential" and effective.

Above all, his efforts failed to win the hostages' release. In an episode that came back to haunt him, on April Fool's Day, the day of the Wisconsin primary which he feared Senator Edward Kennedy would win, the President summoned reporters to his office and told them that a "major breakthrough" was imminent. The Iranian Government was about to take the hostages away from the students, he said.

He won the primary, but the hostages remained in the hands of the students. When a new flurry of reports that they were about to be released came just before the election, no one believed the President. People remembered Wisconsin, remembered the endless failures. It was enough to guarantee Mr Ronald Reagan victory.

It is unlikely that events in Iran had any effect on the Soviet decision to invade Afghanistan on Christmas Day, 1979. It played its part, however, in Mr Carter's reaction, which was as immoderate as his reaction to the seizure of the hostages, though in a better cause.

He called it the most severe threat to world peace since the Second World War.

The Salt treaty, that should have been the capstone of Mr Carter's foreign policy, was lost in the rush. Mr Carter tried to lead his allies into a boycott of the Soviet Union, and of the Olympics, and largely failed. It was a striking demonstration of the shrinking in American power that has occurred over the past 20 years.

It would be totally unjustified to blame it on Mr Carter. Indeed, he was the unfortunate president who was first held to blame for a deterioration that began in the 1960s. Mr Reagan undoubtedly has a point in arguing that America is no longer as respected in the world.

The world would have followed President Eisenhower's lead, or President Kennedy's lead in responding to a Russian invasion of Afghanistan, as it refused to follow President Carter's.

It is probably small consolation to Mr Carter that his successor is going to discover very quickly that he, too, must put up with the same diminution in America's role in the world that so troubled Mr Carter.

It is easy now, after the event, to see that the Americans should have kept quiet when the hostages were seized. In retrospect, Mr Carter's various moves and statements seem futile and self-defeating, and the attempted rescue mission, on April 24, an act of desperation.

However, the cardinal error in judgment took place two years earlier, in 1978, as the Shah's empire unravelled and the Americans failed utterly to recognize what was happening. The last American ambassador in Tehran has recently claimed that if his advice had been heeded, late in the year, the Shah would have been quietly deposed by his own army and Dr Mehdi Bazargan would have taken over, to maintain close friendship with the United States and keep ayatollahs in their place.

It would have been a more convincing argument if he had advanced it six months earlier, before the summer massacres. As it was, Mr Carter supported the Shah to the bitter end, and has reaped the undying hostility of the new revolutionary regime.

After the failure of the rescue, Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, Mr Carter's national security adviser, said that the operation told the world: "Do not scoff at American power, do not scoff at American reach." In the context, it was an utterly fatuous remark but in a wider sense it was perfectly justified.

The United States remains an enormously powerful nation, whose strength and influence in the world could be greatly increased under a more clear-headed president and foreign policy establishment. Mr Carter's experience over the hostages is a text-book demonstration of how it should not be done, how to ensure that America should be scoffed at, and its power underestimated.

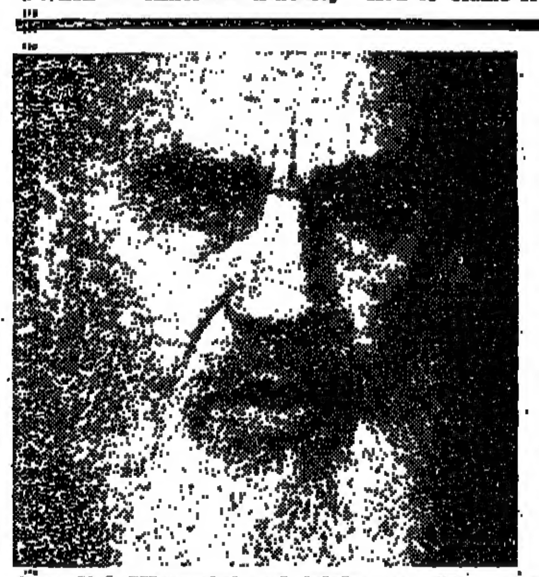
Left to right: Thomas Ahern, aged 48; Clair Barnes; William Belk, 44; Robert Blucker, 52; Donald Cooke, 25; William Daugherty; Robert Englemann, 33; William Gallegos, 22, Marine Corps; Bruce German, 43; Duane Gillette, 24; Allan Golacinski, 29.

John Graves, 53; Joseph Hall, 31; Kevin Hermening, 20, Marine; Donald Hohman, 38; Leland Holland, 52; Michael Howland; Charles Jones, 40; Malcolm Kalp; Moorehead Kennedy, 49, Economic Attache; William Keough, 49, Director of the American School of Teheran.

Steve Kirtley, 22; Kathryn Koob, 43; Frederick Kupke 33; Bruce Laingen, 57, Charge d'Affaires; Steven Lauterbach, 28; Gary Lee, 37; Paul Lewis, 23, Marine; John Limbert, 37; James Lopez, 22, Marine; Johnny McKeel, 27.

Michael Metrinko, 33; Jerry Miele, 42; Michael Moeller, 29, Marine; Bert Moore, 44; Richard Morefield, 51, Consul General; Paul Needham, 29; Robert Ode, 64; Gregory Persinger, 22; Jerry Plotkin, 47; Regis Ragan, 38.

David Roeder, 40; Barry Rosen, 36, Press Attache; William Royer, 49; Thomas Schaefer, 50; Charles Scott, 48; Donald Sharer; Rodney Sickmann, 22; Joseph Subic, 23; Elizabeth Swift, 39; Victor Tomseth, 39, Vice-Consul; Phillip Ward, 30. These names have been compiled from family and other sources as the United States has never yet published an official list.



Ayatollah Khomeini and (right) an effigy of President Carter goes up in flames in Tehran.

The mangled wreck of an American helicopter following the abortive commando rescue mission last April.

The attack on the embassy

At 10 o'clock on Sunday, November 4, 1979, several hundred thousand Iranians were marching in the rain towards the university in Tehran to take part in a funeral ceremony for Iranian soldiers killed in Kurdistan, when some 400 students among the marchers suddenly changed course.

They headed for the United States Embassy, armed with clubs, climbed the outside walls and iron gates, and spread out across the inner park to the mission buildings.

Negotiations with embassy people who refused to let them in took two hours. Then the students launched their attack. American Marine guards threw a few tear gas bombs but were overwhelmed.

Everybody inside the embassy was taken prisoner by the youths, who called themselves "Islamic students following the road traced by the Imam", Ayatollah Khomeini.

At 1 o'clock, the American flag was replaced by a piece of white cloth bearing the words: Allah Akhbar (God is the greatest). Thus began the affair of the American hostages, which was to widen into a protracted international issue.

At that moment, American diplomats and Marines were seen crossing the embassy courtyard blindfolded, their hands tied behind their backs, escorted by young men and women all wearing portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini pinned to their clothing.

All prisoners were taken to the consular section, in another embassy building, and were promised they would not be harmed.

Security forces, police as well as revolutionary guards, meanwhile cordoned off the embassy, as the students announced their condition for the release of the hostages: the Government of the United States was to "deliver the Shah of Iran".

In the streets, tension was steadily mounting. An American flag was burnt before hundreds of people raising their fists. Anti-American slogans were shouted over a loudspeaker.

At irregular intervals, the embassy doors opened for Iranian employees of the embassy to be released. At 6 o'clock, reporters were let in.

The students told the reporters that they had the support of Ayatollah Khomeini and that documents discovered at the embassy proved the absence of anti-American militancy on the part of the Iranian Government of the day, that of Dr Mehdi Bazargan.

By nightfall, the students settled in at the embassy, for much longer than anybody then suspected.—Agence France-Presse.

Saga of international failure and an abortive rescue mission

The following is a chronology supplied by the Associated Press of the United States hostage crisis in Iran:

Nov 4-10, 1979: Iranian militants seize the United States Embassy in Tehran and hold its staff hostage, demanding that the United States should return the deposed Shah Muhammad Reza-Pahlavi, who is in a New York hospital. The United States refuses. The United Nations Security Council calls on the militants to free the hostages "without delay". President Carter orders the Justice Department to deport Iranians who do not comply with their student visa requirements.

Nov 11-17: As anti-American fervour builds up in Iran, Mr Carter orders a halt to oil imports from Iran and the freezing of Iranian assets in the United States. The Embassy militants release one Italian hostage.

Nov 18-24: The militants release 13 Americans—five women and eight black men—and five non-Americans, leaving about 50 Americans held. The Pentagon orders the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk and five other warships to proceed to the Indian Ocean.

Nov 25-Dec 1: The United States asks the International Court of Justice at The Hague, for an emergency ruling against the seizure of the hostages in Iran.

Dec 2-8: The Shah leaves New York for a military hospital near San Antonio, Texas. Iranians vote for a new Islamic constitution giving Ayatollah Khomeini supreme power for life. The United Nations Security Council votes unanimously to urge Iran to free the American hostages.

Dec 9-15: The American State Department orders the expulsion of 183 Iranian diplomats. The Shah flies to "temporary" exile in Panama. The International Court orders Iran to free the hostages.

Dec 23-29: Mr Ghotbzadeh declares all the hostages will be tried if the Security Council imposes economic sanctions on Iran.

Dec 30-Jan 5, 1980: Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, arrives in Tehran but Ayatollah Khomeini refuses to meet him.

Jan 13-19: Ten of 15 Security Council members vote for economic sanctions against Iran but the Soviet Union vetoes the resolution.

Jan 27-Feb 2: Mr Bani-Sadr is elected Iranian President. It is disclosed that six Americans who avoided capture at the embassy had slipped out of Iran with Canadian help.

Feb 17-23: Dr Waldheim announces a five-man commission to investigate alleged crimes by the Shah and American involvement in Iran during his reign.

March 9-15: Ayatollah Khomeini bars a commission meeting with the hostages. The commission leaves Iran. Voting begins for Iran's new parliament.

March 16-22: Mr Hamilton Jordan, White House adviser, flies to Panama supposedly to resolve a dispute involving the Shah's operation. Iran is scheduled to start extradition proceedings in Panama on March 24.

March 23-29: The Shah arrives in Egypt from Panama and his spleen is removed.

April 6-12: The United States breaks diplomatic relations with Iran, expelling its diplomats and imposing economic sanctions.

April 13-19: Mr Carter imposes more economic sanctions on Iran, bans travel there by Americans, except news correspondents, and says military action could be the next step.

April 20-26: American allies in Europe decide to reduce diplomatic staffs in Iran and promise to impose economic sanctions if no "decisive progress" is made over the hostages by May 17.

Early on April 25, the White House announces an American military force had to abort a secret mission to rescue the hostages because of the failure of three helicopters. Eight American servicemen are reported killed in a ground collision of a C-130 and a helicopter as the aircraft were preparing to leave the area. Iran says that the hostages are being moved from the United States Embassy to other parts of Tehran and to other cities.

April 27-May 3: Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, resigns in protest over the rescue attempt and is succeeded by Senator Edmund Muskie. On April 30, men identified as Iranian Arabs seize hostages in Iran's Embassy in London, demanding the release of 91 people they say are political prisoners in Iran.

May 4-10: On May 5, a British commando storms the Iranian Embassy in London, freeing 19 hostages after the gunmen killed two of their captives.

May 18-24: The International Court orders Iran to release the Americans and to pay the United States compensation.

May 25-31: Three European socialist leaders, Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria, former Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden and Socialist Party leader Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, meet Mr Bani-Sadr in Tehran. The new Iranian Parliament is convened on May 28. Border clashes with Iraq are reported.

June 1-7: Defying an American ban on travel to Iran, Mr Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General, and nine other Americans arrive in Tehran for a "crimes of America" conference of delegates from 50 nations.

June 15-21: Authorities in Iran report a military plot to topple the Government. At least 127 members of the armed forces are reported to have been arrested and 150 others are being sought.

June 29-July 5: An Iranian Justice Ministry investigator says Marine Staff Sergeant Michael Moeller, aged 28, a hostage, will be tried on charges of seducing an Iranian woman who later was hanged by her brother as her punishment. In Cairo, the Shah undergoes surgery for the removal of fluid in his lungs.

July 13-19: An attempt is made in Paris to assassinate Dr Shahpour Bakhtiar, the last Iranian Prime Minister under the Shah and leader of an anti-Khomeini exile movement.

July 27-Aug 2: The Shah dies in a Cairo military hospital and is buried two days later after a state funeral.

Aug 3-9: A hostage trial threat in Iran prompts US immigration officials to order the release of 191 Iranians detained in America.

Aug 10-16: Muhammad Ali Rajai is confirmed by the Majlis as Iran's Prime Minister.

Sept 7-13: Ayatollah Khomeini lists four conditions for the hostages' release, omitting a demand for an American apology for alleged past crimes. Ayatollah Khomeini's conditions: return of the late Shah's wealth, cancellation of American claims against Iran, unfreezing of Iranian funds in the United States and American guarantees of no interference in Iran. Britain closes its embassy in Tehran as a protection against retaliation for what Iran says is ill-treatment of Iranians in Britain.

Sept 14-20: Iraq abrogates a 1975 border agreement with Iran and fighting breaks out.

Sept 28-Oct 4: A seven-member parliamentary commission is named in Iran to consider the hostage issue.

Oct 12-18: Mr Rajai flies to the United Nations and accuses the United States of helping Iraq in the conflict, partly to bring about the release of the hostages. However, he believes the United States has met "in practice" Iran's demand for an apology for supporting the Shah.

Oct 19-25: Pre-election speculation on an imminent release of the hostages mounts in the United States.

Oct 26-Nov 1: The Majlis begins debate on the hostage issue, but adjourns without decision.

Nov 2-8: The Majlis votes to free the hostages if the United States meets conditions set by Ayatollah Khomeini and the parliamentary committee. Iranians demonstrate outside the American Embassy in Tehran on November 4, the anniversary date of the seizure of the hostages and the day Mr Ronald Reagan is elected President.

Nov 9-15: The State Department dispatches a team to Algiers to present the Carter Administration's formal response to Iran's conditions.

Nov 15-22: Mr Muskie says the United States has accepted Iran's four conditions "in principle", but Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Majlis, says that that is not enough.

Dec 14-20: Mr Rajai says the hostages could be home by Christmas if the United States gives a "guarantee" on Iran's financial demands.

Dec 21-27: On their second Christmas in captivity, the hostages are allowed to broadcast messages to their loved ones. Iran demands the United States deposit with Algeria the equivalent of $24,000m in cash and gold—its estimate of the Shah's wealth and frozen Iranian assets.

Dec 28-Jan 3 1981: After meetings in Washington and Tehran with Algerian mediators the chief Iranian negotiator, Mr Behzad Nabavi, says Iran will listen to American counter-proposals if Algeria approves.

Jan 4-10: Three American diplomats held in Iran's Foreign Ministry since the seizure of the American Embassy are moved to a secret location. Mr Warren Christopher, Deputy Secretary of State, flies to Algiers.

Jan 11-17: Financial negotiations intensify. Iran agrees to delay discussion of return of the former Shah's wealth. Talks about frozen Iranian state wealth abroad totalling more than $12,000m.

On Jan 14 Iran's Parliament approves an urgent Bill authorizing Algerian mediation, while Tehran radio reports that Washington has agreed to deposit 70 per cent of the frozen assets in Algerian banks.

On Jan 15, Iran sends Washington its "final terms", said to involve release of $6,600m in Iranian assets frozen within the United States.

Jan 18-24: In Algiers on Jan 19, Mr Warren Christopher, United States Deputy Secretary of State, signs an agreement in which the United States agrees to transfer all Iranian assets within United States jurisdiction; terminate all United States court proceedings against Iran; to refrain from intervening in Iranian affairs.

هكذا من الأصل

Financial deal leaves Tehran free to make future borrowing

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Jan 19

A most complicated set of financial arrangements involving the Bank of England were hammered-out in the past 72 hours to secure the release of the American hostages.

The final financial terms agreed upon are more advantageous to international bankers than bankers had expected. In New York, bankers said today that it appeared the Iranian Central Bank wanted to make sure that, after these tense events, Iran would still be able to borrow money from foreign banks.

At issue was more than $8 billion of official Iranian assets that had been frozen by President Carter in mid-November, 1979, when the United States Government discovered that Iran was about to withdraw all its holdings of dollars in American institutions. The freezing of the Iranian assets came two weeks after the American diplomats were taken hostage.

American officials were refusing to divulge details of the financial deals until the hostages were set free. According to Banking sources and some unconfirmed reports the arrangements have a number of separate elements.

A total of 1,632 million ounces of gold owned by Iran and held at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has been credited to an official United States account at the Bank of England. The deal envisaged that the British central bank *would then place the bullion in* an official Iranian account.

Further, a total of about $1,350m of Iranian holdings of official United States securities was to be liquidated with the cash passing from the New York Federal Reserve Bank to the Bank of England and on to the Central Bank of Algiers, which would then pass it along to the Bank Mercazi, the central bank of Iran.

Approximately $5 billion of Iran funds were on deposit with five large American banks at the time that the freeze was implemented and approximately another $1 billion was held by a number of other United States financial institutions.

Much of this cash was held on deposit at American bank branches in London with the London totals for the biggest institutions being: $1,796m at the Bank of America; $416m at Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company; $332m at Bankers Trust; $396m at Citibank; and $321m at the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Many banks had claims on Iran for loans taken by Iran and not repaid. Under the complicated deals that were struck in the past few days a total of $3,600m of the bank deposits were to be used to pay-off outstanding Iranian loans to international banking syndicates. The Bank of England was to play a key role in arranging this.

A further sum of $1,500m was to be placed in an escrow account managed by the Bank of England from which claims on Iran by banks and foreign companies could be made.

American bankers had not expected the Iranians to be so *willing to use so much of the* frozen assets for immediate repayment of debts to international banks.

Iran is likely to diversify released dollar assets

By Frances Williams

Events surrounding the release of the United States hostages overshadowed the foreign exchange markets yesterday. But uncertainty over what Iran intended to do with the assets released by the Americans as part of the hostage deal depressed the volume of trading. Currency movements were rather volatile.

Both the pound and the yen rose sharply against the dollar in morning trading.

It is thought likely that these would be attractive currencies for the Iranians to move into should they seek to diversify out of dollars. But the currenciees drifted downwards during the course of the afternoon.

Many analysts take the view that Iran, at least in the short term, will hold on to its dollars. Dollar interest rates are attractive; and large sales of the United States currency would drive the exchange rate down and could therefore prove self-defeating.

After touching around $2.4190, the pound fell to close the day at $2.4070, up 1.40 cents from Friday's close. Its effective exchange rate index, as measured against a basket of currencies, reached 80.2 at mid-day, equal to November's peak level, but eased to end the day at 80.1, up 0.1 from Friday.

The movement of sterling reflected that of the dollar, which was weaker for most of the day but staged a recovery towards the end of trading.

Document that opened prospect of freedom for American diplomats

Mr Christopher signs the agreement, watched by Mr Muhammad Benyahia.

Algiers, Jan 19.—This is the English text of the agreement signed today in Algeria by Mr Warren Christopher, United States Deputy Secretary of State, for the release of the American hostages:

Declaration

The Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, having been requested by the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America to serve as an intermediary in seeking a mutually acceptable resolution of the crisis in their relations arising out of the detention of the 52 United States nationals in Iran, has consulted extensively with the two governments as to the commitments which each is willing to make in order to resolve the crisis within the framework of the four points stated in the resolution of November 2, 1980, of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran. On the basis of formal adherences received from Iran and the United States, the Government of Algeria now declares that the following interdependent commitments have been made by the two governments:

General principles

The undertakings reflected in this declaration are based on the following general principles:

A. Within the framework of and pursuant to the provisions of the two declarations of the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the United States will restore the financial position of Iran, in so far as possible, to that which existed prior to November 14, 1979. In this context, the United States commits itself to insure the mobility and free transfer of all Iranian assets within its jurisdiction as set forth in paragraphs four to nine.

B. It is the purpose of both parties, within the framework of and pursuant to the provisions of the two declarations of the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, to terminate all litigation as between the government of each party and the nationals of the other, and to bring about the settlement and termination of all such claims through binding arbitration. Through the procedures provided in the declaration relating to the claims settlement agreement, the United States agrees to terminate all legal proceedings in United States courts involving claims of United States persons and institutions against Iran and its state enterprises, to nullify all attachments and judgements obtained therein, to prohibit all further litigation based on such claims, and to bring about the termination of such claims through binding arbitration.

Non-intervention in Iranian affairs

1. The United States pledges that it is and from now on will be the policy of the United States not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically or militarily, in Iran's internal affairs.

Return of Iranian assets and settlement of United States claims

2. Iran and the United States (hereinafter the parties) will immediately select a mutually agreeable central bank (hereinafter the central bank) to act, under the instructions of the Government of Algeria and the Central Bank of Algeria (hereinafter the Algerian central bank) as depository of the escrow and security funds hereinafter prescribed and will promptly enter into depository arrangements with the central bank in accordance with the terms of this declaration. All funds placed in escrow with the central bank pursuant to this declaration shall be held in an account in the name of the Algerian Central Bank. Certain procedures for implementing the obligations set forth in this declaration and in the declaration of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria concerning the settlement of claims by the Government of the United States and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran (hereinafter the claims settlement agreement) are separately set forth in certain undertakings of the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to the declaration of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

3. The depository arrangements shall provide that, in the event that the Government of Algeria certifies to the Algerian Central Bank that the 52 United States nationals have safely departed from Iran, the Algerian Central Bank will thereupon instruct the central bank to transfer immediately all monies or other assets in escrow with the central bank pursuant to this declaration, provided that at any time prior to the making of such certification by the Government of Algeria, each of the two parties, Iran and the United States, shall have the right of 72 hours notice to terminate its commitments under this declaration. If such notice is given by the United States and the foregoing certification is made by the Government of Algeria within the 72 hour period of notice, the Algerian Central Bank will thereupon instruct the central bank to transfer such monies and assets. If the 72 hour period of notice by the United States expires without such a certification having been made, or if the notice of termination is delivered by Iran, the Algerian Central Bank will thereupon instruct the central bank to return all such monies and assets to the United States, and thereafter the commitments reflected in this declaration shall be of no further force and effect.

Assets in the Federal Reserve Bank

4. Commencing upon completion of the requisite escrow arrangements with the central bank, the United States will bring about the transfer to the central bank of all gold bullion which is owned by Iran and which is in the custody of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, together with all other Iranian assets (or the cash equivalent thereof) in the custody of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, to be held by the central bank in escrow until such time as their transfer or return is required by paragraph 3 above.

Assets in foreign branches of US banks

5. Commencing upon the completion of the requisite escrow arrangements with the central bank, the United States will bring about the transfer to the central bank, to the account of the Algerian Central Bank, of all Iranian deposits and securities which on or after November 14, 1979 stood upon the books of overseas banking offices of United States banks, together with interest thereon through December 31, 1980, to be held by the central bank, to the account of the Algerian Central Bank, in escrow until such time as their transfer or return is required in accordance with paragraph 3 of this declaration.

Assets in US branches of US banks

6. Commencing with adherence by Iran and the United States to this declaration and the claims settlement agreement attached hereto, and following the conclusion of arrangements with the central bank for the establishment of the interest-bearing security account specified in that agreement and paragraph 7 below, which arrangements will be concluded within 30 days from the date of this declaration, the United States will act to bring about the transfer to the central bank within six months from such date of all Iranian deposits and securities in United States banking institutions in the United States together with interest thereon, to be held by the central bank in escrow until such time as their transfer or return is required by paragraph 3.

7. As funds received by the central bank pursuant to paragraph 6 above, the Algerian Central Bank shall direct the central bank to (1) transfer one half of each such receipt to Iran and (2) place the other half in a special interest-bearing security account in the central bank, until the balance in the security account has reached the level of 1 billion dollars. After the 1 billion dollars balance has been achieved, the Algerian Central Bank shall direct all funds received pursuant to paragraph 6 to be transferred to Iran. All funds in the security account are to be used for the sole purpose of securing the payment of, and paying, claims against Iran in accordance with the claims settlement agreement. Whenever the central bank shall thereafter notify Iran that the balance in the security account has fallen below 500 million dollars, Iran shall promptly make new deposits sufficient to maintain a minimum balance of 500 million dollars in the account. The account shall be so maintained until the president of the arbitral tribunal established pursuant to the claims settlement agreement has certified to the Central Bank of Algeria that all arbitral awards against Iran have been satisfied in accordance with the claims settlement agreement, at which point any amount remaining in the security account shall be transferred to Iran.

Other assets in the United States and abroad

8. Commencing with the adherence of Iran and the United States to this declaration and the attached claims settlement agreement and the conclusion of arrangements for the establishment of the security account, which arrangements will be concluded within 30 days from the date of this declaration, the United States will act to bring about the transfer to the central bank of all Iranian financial assets (meaning funds or securities) which are located in the United States and abroad, apart from those assets referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, to be held by the central bank in escrow until their transfer or return is required by paragraph 3 above.

9. Commencing with the adherence by Iran and the United States to this declaration and the attached claims settlement agreement and the making by the Government of Algeria of the certifications described in paragraph 3 above, the United States will arrange, subject to the provisions of United States law applicable prior to November 14, 1979, for the transfer of all Iranian properties which are located in the United States and abroad and which are not within the scope of the preceding paragraphs.

Nullification of sanctions and claims

10. Upon the making by the Government of Algeria of the certification described in paragraph 3 above, the United States will revoke all trade sanctions which were directed against Iran in the period November 4, 1979 to date.

11. Upon the making by the Government of Algeria of the certification described in paragraph 3 above, the United States will promptly withdraw all claims now pending against Iran before the International Court of Justice and will thereafter bar and preclude the prosecution against Iran of any pending or future claims of the United States or United States nationals arising out of events occurring before the date of this declaration related to (A) the seizure of the 52 United States nationals on November 4, 1979 (B) their subsequent detention (C) injury to the United States property or property of the United States nationals within the United States embassy compound in Tehran after November 3, 1979, and (D) injury to the United States nationals or their property as a result of popular movements in the course of the Islamic Revolution in Iran which were not an act of the Government of Iran. The United States will also bar and preclude the prosecution against Iran in the courts of the United States of any pending or future claims asserted by persons other than the United States nationals arising out of the events specified in the preceding paragraph.

Return of the assets of the family of the former Shah

12. Upon the making by the Government of Algeria of the certification described in paragraph 3 above, the United States will freeze, and prohibit any transfer of property and assets in the United States within the control of the estate of the former Shah or any close relative of the former Shah served as a defendant in United States litigation brought by Iran to recover such property and assets as belonging to Iran. As to any such defendants, including the estate of the former Shah, the freeze order will remain in effect until such litigation is finally terminated. Violation of the freeze order shall be subject to the civil and criminal penalties prescribed by United States law.

13. Upon the making by the Government of Algeria of the certification described in paragraph 3 above, the United States will order all persons within United States jurisdiction to report to the United States Treasury, within 30 days, for transmission to Iran, all information known to them, as of November 3, 1979 and as of the date of the order with respect to the property and assets referred to in paragraph 12. Violation of the requirement will be subject to civil and criminal penalties prescribed by United States law.

14. Upon the making by the Government of Algeria of the certification described in paragraph 3 above, the United States will make known to all appropriate United States courts that in any litigation of the kind described in paragraph 12 above the claims of Iran should not be considered legally barred either by sovereign immunity principles or by the act of state doctrine and that Iranian decrees and judgments relating to such assets should be enforced by such courts in accordance with United States law.

15. As to any judgment of a United States court which calls for transfer of any property or assets to Iran, the United States hereby guarantees the enforcement of the final judgment to the extent that the property or assets exist with the United States.

16. If any dispute arises between the parties as to whether the United States has fulfilled any obligation imposed upon it by paragraphs 12-15, inclusive, Iran may submit the dispute to binding arbitration by the tribunal established by, and in accordance with the provision of, the claims settlement agreement. If the tribunal determines that Iran has suffered a loss as a result of the failure by the United States to fulfil such obligation, it shall make an appropriate award in favour of Iran which may be enforced by Iran in the courts of any nation in accordance with its laws.

Settlement of disputes

17. If any other dispute arises between the parties as to the interpretation or performance of any provision of this declaration, either party may submit the dispute to binding arbitration by the tribunal established by, and in accordance with the provision of, the claims settlement agreement. Any decision of the tribunal with respect to such dispute, including any award of damages to compensate for a loss resulting from a breach of this declaration of the claims settlement agreement, may be enforced by the prevailing party in the courts of any nation in accordance with its laws.

Initialled on January 19, 1981.

By
Warren M. Christopher
Deputy Secretary of State of the Government of the United States

By virtue of the powers vested in him by his Government as deposited with the Government of Algeria.

IRAN HOSTAGES

Agreement for return of nationals may cost US $10,000m and rules out all litigation against Iran

From Ian Murray
Algiers, Jan 19

The United States agreed to buy back the hostages under the terms of two complex and soulless declarations signed here early this morning after a feverish round of negotiations.

Copies were first forwarded to President Carter for approval by the Algerian Embassy in Washington.

The total cost of meeting the terms is expected to be as high as $10,000m (£4,125m) by the time all the lengthy procedures are exhausted.

On the credit side, President Carter will be able to leave the White House knowing that it was he who eventually negotiated an end to the hostage crisis, which had turned the last 443 days of his term into a nightmare.

The terms cover the four conditions put forward by Ayatollah Khomeini on September 12 as prerequisites for a deal. They include a pledge of non-interference in Iranian affairs; the freeing of all frozen Iranian assets; dropping legal and financial claims against Iran, and return of the late Shah's wealth.

Reaching agreement on the first point was simple. The declaration takes only four lines of the text: "The United States pledges that it is, and from now on will be the policy of the United States not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically or militarily, in Iran's internal affairs".

The rest of the 12 foolscap pages deal with the more complex money matters. They contain only the briefest reference to the hostages, and the declaration reads for the most part like a complicated financial transaction between two suspicious trading partners rather than a document on which so many human lives and so much national pride depend.

The hostages are referred to as little more than objects on the commodity market. Under the terms of the declaration they even lose their right to sue Iran for damages.

Basically, the agreement is "that the United States will restore the financial position of Iran, in so far as possible to that which existed prior to November 4, 1979. In this context the United States commits itself to ensure the mobility and free transfer of all Iranian assets within its jurisdiction."

"As to legal proceedings: "It is the purpose of both parties to terminate all litigation *between the government* of each party and the nationals of the other, and to bring about a settlement of all such claims through binding arbitration."

Equally, "the United States agrees to terminate all legal proceedings in American courts involving claims of United States' persons and institutions against Iran and its state enterprises."

Crucial to the entire arrangement is what is referred to as the "central bank" which is the Bank of England. Its role in the deal is to act as the depository for all the money. The Bank is to open a special account for the Algerian Central Bank, into which will be paid all the funds deposited in escrow with the Bank of England.

"The depository arrangements shall provide that, in the event that the Algerian Government certifies to the Algerian Central Bank that the 52 United States nationals have safely departed from Iran, the Algerian Central Bank will thereupon instruct the central bank to transfer immediately all moneys or other assets". If either Iran or the United States wants to end the agreement they will have to do so before the hostages leave Iran. In those circumstances all money would be returned to the United States.

The declaration detailed the manner in which the different assets of Iran are to be freed. Those in the Federal Reserve Bank, which include gold, and amount to around $2,500m are to be sent straight to the central bank. Those held in foreign branches of American banks—mainly London and Paris—worth about $4,000m are to be paid over, complete, with all interest earned until the end of last year.

Assets in local branches of American banks, another $2,500m, will have to be paid into an interest-bearing account set up by the central bank. The Algerians will transfer half of this money to Iran and hold the rest. This money is to be used for settling claims for which Iran may be held responsible by an arbitration tribunal.

Similarly, all other financial assets are to be paid into the special account at the central bank, while all Iranian properties are to be transferred to Iran. This clause could cover military equipment paid for, but not yet delivered to Iran.

On release of the hostages all trade sanctions against Iran are to be lifted and the United States Government will withdraw all claims against Iran at present before the International Court of Justice.

The American Government "will thereafter bar and preclude the prosecution against Iran of any pending or future claim" arising from the capture of the hostages, their detention, or any injury caused to them or their property. According to the declaration their capture was "a result of popular movements in the course of the Islamic revolution, which were not an act of the Government of Iran."

As to returning the Shah's assets, everyone "within United States jurisdiction" who knows details about the Shah's property and that of his close family has to report to the American Treasury within 30 days. This information is to be sent to Iran and anyone failing to provide it will be subject to civil and criminal penalties under American law.

The declaration says that the United States Government will enforce any court orders on the return of the Shah's property and in the case of dispute there would be an arbitration process.

The system of arbitration, which is also to be used to settle existing claims against Iran, is the subject of the second declaration signed this morning. It sets up a nine-man body, with three American and three Iranian members, who jointly agree the three other members, including the president. This tribunal would probably sit at The Hague and is to be financed jointly by the two countries, and be working within four months.

Carrington move to free Britons

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain will take immediate action to lift economic sanctions against Iran, imposed by all EEC countries as a specific protest against the detention of the American hostages, when they are finally released. But normal diplomatic relations between the two countries will not be resumed while the four Britons held without charges continue to be detained.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, flies to Brussels today for a Council of Ministers meeting at which the foreign ministers of the Ten will discuss the next move in their relations with Iran. Although he is expected to seek their support in pressing for the release of the detained Britons—Dr and Mrs John Coleman, Miss Jean Waddell and Mr Andrew Pyke—sanctions are a completely separate matter.

British policy, for the moment at least, will be to "wait and see", in the hope that the release of the American hostages will help to improve the atmosphere in Tehran and so ease the way—though their situation is quite different—for the early release of the Britons.

There is no dispensation in Whitehall to make new demands or strike attitudes which might make it all the harder to persuade the Iranians to set the Britons free. The recent visits of the *Archbishop of Canterbury's special* envoy, conducted as a pastoral visit to the three missionaries, independently of the Foreign Office, suggested that the Iranian authorities now recognized that the allegations made against them were all false.

A report that the Iranian Government was seeking a barter deal for the release of the four, against Iranian students held in Britain, was treated circumspectly yesterday. The British Government was officially informed by a high-level Iranian delegation to London last November that the Four were "not" regarded as hostages.

Meanwhile the one British official remaining in Iran is continuing to seek consular access to them through the British interests section of the Swedish Embassy. The British Embassy staff were withdrawn last September but diplomatic relations as such were not broken.

Media mount million-dollar operation at air base

From Patricia Clough
Wiesbaden, Jan 19

One of the biggest media operations was awaiting the arrival of the 52 American hostages for a period of psychological decompression between captivity and their homecoming.

Staff of the United States Air Force hospital at Lindsay air base in Wiesbaden were preparing rooms for the hostages on the third floor of the barrack-like but excellently equipped building.

There they will be examined, cared for and counselled by a team of American psychologists and doctors before being reunited with their families and returning to society.

Telephones are being laid on for them to talk to their relatives but they are expected to stay in the hospital for several days.

"Welcome back to freedom" was daubed in large bold letters on a hangar at the bleak Rhein-Main military airport near Frankfurt where the hostages are due to arrive. Ribbons were tied around the entrance to the hospital about half an hour's drive away.

Nearly a thousand journalists, cameramen and technicians are estimated to have converged on Frankfurt and Wiesbaden as the longest and most expensive "doorstepping" operation in media history neared its climax.

American television networks have kept crews and equipment here for several months and now the end was in sight—the phrase, as one television journalist said, was "money no object".

Helicopters had been hired to follow the bus taking the hostages from the airport to the hospital, with floodlights if it happened at night.

Once reticent on the subject, network staff were speaking openly of the cost of the operation, roughly a million dollars to date.

Ironically the chance of the media having any contact with the hostages is remote. Unless *they specially wish it they will* be advised not to speak to the press until they have got their bearings again.

Government psychiatrists have issued warnings that long periods of captivity can cause serious difficulties. Victims of similar experiences often suffer from irritability, insomnia and physical disorders, their relationships with their families may prove difficult, existing psychological difficulties may be magnified and new fears and tensions created.

Russians stick to theory of imminent invasion

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 19

The Russians today angrily denied that they tried to complicate American negotiations with Iran on the release of the hostages by publishing reports of an imminent American invasion of Iran.

A Tass statement rejected the sharp criticism these reports brought forth over the weekend from Mr Edmund Muskie, the American Secretary of State, calling it a "deliberate attempt *to delude public opinion* in the United States and elsewhere" and a "slanderous hullabaloo".

The agency defended its unsourced reports as representing the true state of affairs. The entire world press, including that in the United States, it said, had spoken of the concentration of a powerful American force near Iran. This had not been denied in Washington. Tass said it had no clandestine motives in publishing the reports.

Meanwhile, the Russians have only briefly reported the announced agreement on the hostages release.

In a significantly brief dispatch from Washington today, Tass reported President Carter's announcement that agreement had been reached with Iran on the release of the hostages. But newspapers this morning carried no word of the negotiations in Algiers or of the hostages' impending release.

A *Pravda* commentator, discussing America's role in the Iran-Iraq conflict, said it was no secret that after the start of the war Washington turned the hostages into an object of "dishonest trade", which was typical of imperialism's policy of "carrot and stick".

In the course of its bargaining, the Communist Party newspaper added, Washington had at times used "alluring promises", at others "crude threats".

The accusations were made by the commentator who over the weekend maintained that the Americans were about to launch an armed intervention

Carter thanks for superb Algerian job

Washington, Jan 19.—This is the full text of President Carter's announcement early today on the signing of an agreement with Iran to end the hostage crisis:

I know you've been up all night with me and I appreciate it very much.

We have now reached an agreement with Iran which will result, I believe, in the freedom of our American hostages. The last documents have now been signed in Algiers following the signing of the documents in Iran which will result in this agreement.

We still have a few documents to sign before the money is actually transferred and the hostages are *released. The essence of the* agreement is that following the release of our hostages then we will unfreeze and transfer to the Iranians a major part of the assets which were frozen by me when the Iranians seized our embassy compound and took our hostages.

We have also reached complete agreement on the arbitration procedures between ourselves and Iran with the help of the Algerians which will resolve the claims that exist between residents of our nation and Iran and vice versa.

I particularly want to express my public thanks as I have already done privately to the Algerians, to their President, their Foreign Minister, Benyahia, and to the three-man negotiating team who have done such a superb job in *fair and equitable arbitration* between ourselves and the officials of Iran.

We don't yet know exactly how fast this procedure will go. We are prepared to move as rapidly as possible, all the preparations *have been completed pending the* final documents being signed.

I will have more to say to you when our American hostages are actually free. In the meantime (White House press secretary) Jody Powell will stay in close touch with developments, working with the Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury (and) my legal counsel Lloyd Cutler. I am talking frequently to (Deputy Secretary of State) Warren Christopher in Algiers, and Jody Powell will keep you informed *about developments.—Reuter.*

Fashion

by Suzy Menkes

History, the who, when and the wear

Old clothes have an extraordinary emotional appeal when you know the body that once filled out their empty folds.

Anna Pavlova's feet dance on for ever in her tiny, stained ballet shoes. Queen Victoria's ivory satin wedding dress with its handspan waist swells into the great billowing black bombazine dresses that she wore in her mourning years.

When I arrived at the costume department of the Museum of London, Kay Staniland, their dedicated Curator of Costumes and Textiles, was supervizing the delicate restoration of a cream silk coat edged in flame silk and embroidered with jewels for the exhibition (January 27-March 22, closed Mondays) to celebrate the centenary of Pavlova's birth.

She was also taking in the costume department's latest acquisition—their first Punk outfit: a pair of leopardskin leotards, Dr Marten's boots, a hairy pink mohair sweater, all topped off with an old-soldier's coat.

What to hoard and what to throw away in fashion is a problem for all of us. For Kay Staniland the problem is much the same as ours, but on a grand scale. Behind the scenes at the Museum of London are racks of clothes, *boxes of accessories, shelves* of shoes, drawers of scanties, of fans, of umbrellas, of hankies. Behind cambric shrouds in a thermostatically controlled temperature are preserved fragments of social history and frozen images of historical events.

Here is Edmund Keane's coat in which he swashbuckled round the stage as Richard III. There is Margaret Thatcher's ice blue frock, a stiff relic of her early ministerial days. Here is Nijinsky's threadbare black coat, trimmed with a collar of wilting fur.

Did Princess Margaret really cause a stir by ordering from Dior that odd straw-embroidered organza dress for her 21st birthday ball? And was Queen Mary in 1935 really still wearing a column of lace redolent of an Edwardian afternoon?

Kay Staniland sees a great deal of history written in the clothes she and her tiny department collect, date, analyse and preserve. They launder the fabrics as carefully as a new born baby, with the purest of soaps, and Kay shudders for the fate of modern clothes steeped in biological detergents that will probably have eaten away the garments by the time future historians want to study them.

Although I was instinctively drawn towards the great occasion clothes and costumes, she is particularly interested in ordinary clothing as a record of London's social history. One of her proudest acquisitions is a traffic warden's outfit, for she is anxious not to miss the *opportunity of charting* working class dress and street wear.

Just now, the only people who get a chance to look at this splendid collection of London's fashion history are students and specialists, who make appointments in writing. If any of the Royal Family (who have no post-war clothes in this collection) offered the Museum their wardrobe, there would be a panic to find the space to store the garments and a touchy moment explaining to the donor why nothing can be put on show.

Because only a few crumbs of the collection can ever be *displayed* alongside the gilded coach and licking flames of the Great Fire, the Museum of London is hoping to set up a branch museum devoted to costume and textiles. They have the clothes and the expertise. What they need is money.

They also need Friends, which is the name given to the organization now trying to drum up the interest, enthusiasm and capital needed for the new branch museum. Founder members of the Friends of the Costume Department include such prestigious fashion names as couturier Hardy Amies and royal milliner Freddie Fox, as well as fashion enthusiasts like artist Elizabeth Suter and Lady Harlech.

Individual members can join for £5 a year. Further information can be obtained from the Costume Department, Museum of London, London Wall EC2Y 5HN.

As an inveterate hoarder, who lays down in my attic every garment I have ever owned, I feel a vested interest in preserving fashion for posterity. I am only sorry that I cannot make over the best of my clothes (and encourage you to do the same) to the Museum now.

But Kay *Staniland does not* want my 1960s miniskirts, my white Courrèges boots, my early hippie caftans and Mexican embroidered skirt. She does not even want your 1920s chinoiserie jacket or 1940s ATS suit.

At least, not until she has found some more space ...

Left: Marisa Martin.

Above: Romantic lace and ribbon top and skirt, for summer evenings or weddings, approximately £255 from Marisa Martin's new shop at 107-114 Parkway, London NW1.

Victorian pearl jewelry from a selection at Knowles-Brown, 27 Hampstead High Street, London NW3.

Hair by Lundy at Toni and Guy.

Makeup by Arianne at Models One. Flower circlet made up by David Shilling, 36 Marylebone High Street, London.

Photograph by Jeang

Marisa Martin makes the prettiest clothes. Her painter's eye for colour, her extraordinary collection of antique lace and her particular skill at interweaving shape, colour and texture make her clothes uniquely appealing.

Marisa's private passion is scuba diving, and her new shop looks like the home of a tropical fish swimming through the murky waters of Camden Town.

Against the lagoon blue walls and shell pink stairs wave fronds of lace, maybe just decorating the hem of a simple cotton dress, or clinging like barnacles to embroidery and beading.

Spanish-born Marisa has been collecting lace for the past 15 years. She scours the attics of factories in Switzerland for forgotten bags of old trimmings, and at the same time badgers the Swiss fabric makers into dyeing materials *to her own specifications of* colour or effect, feathers finely embroidered as though they float across the fabric, or crunchy beading with the texture of animal fur.

Her clothes have the originality and exquisite detailing once associated only with haute couture. Part of the new shop is devoted to a collection of sample outfits that will be made to order as couture. This should be particularly successful, thinks Marisa, with wedding dresses, when it is far more helpful for the bride to make a selection from actual dresses rather than sketches.

The most luxurious evening gowns would cost around £650, but favourite purchases are Marisa Martin's romantic silk and satin blouses overlaid with lace like Restoration costumes (from £115).

For the summer there is a cheaper cotton collection and a group of jersey dresses which sell particularly well in America, as well as simple outfits in shot silk or shaded *shantung.*

Marisa Martin has had no formal fashion training, but originally studied painting, and her sense of colour comes over in all her clothes. This season her feeling is for burnt orange, aquamarine, olive green and desert sand, but some of the most beautiful dresses are in ivory or snowy white lace.

Is there still a place in our sporty age for romance? "My clothes are getting more casual. But there must be an element of glamour, and there is still a need for special occasion dresses," says Marisa, one of whose most beautiful lace dresses was selected by the Duchess of Kent.

"People who don't dress up still seem to want beautiful tops—even if they wear them with jeans."

Above left: Anna Pavlova in a pearl-encrusted head-dress and cream silk coat, edged in flame and decorated with jewels worn in *The Russian Dance* in 1910.

Above right: Pavlova in a sugar pink silk coat trimmed with swansdown over a befrilled white net dress from *Christmas* in the 1920s

To be seen at the Tribute to Anna Pavlova at the Museum of London from next Tuesday.

Book review

'Performing flea' with a lifetime of good stories

Wodehouse on Wodehouse
By P. G. Wodehouse
(Hutchinson, £9.95)

The chappie who wrote "Si monumentum requiris, circumspice", referring to the Wren-St Paul's Cathedral venture, knew a thing or two. He went straight to the nub, the crux of the matter.

It is tempting to say the same of P. G. Wodehouse. The books describing the delightful world he created are all you need. But it is not so. Jeeves, looking up from his favourite volume of Spinoza, might well have raised half an eyebrow and advised on the desirability of studying the psychology of the individual, and the three semi-autobiographical books which form this volume certainly give an insight into the man and go some way to explain his genius.

Bring on the Girls, written with Guy Bolton with whom he collaborated on musical comedies, *Performing Flea*, a selection of letters written to his friend, Bill Townend, and *Over Seventy*, which he described as an autobiography with digressions, were published between 1953 and 1957.

An immediate relief is that he writes just as wittily here as he does in his fiction. An immediate difficulty is believing some of the escapades of his life to be true, mirroring as they do episodes given eternal life in his stories.

Thus, in *The Inimitable Jeeves*, there is the tale of the theatre impresario Blumenfield who uses his 12-year-old son as a critic of his productions because he believes the boy has the same intelligence as the average member of the audience. In *Bring on the Girls*, Bolton and Wodehouse describe Abraham Lincoln Erlanger, "Tsar of the New York Theatre" early this century, and his son Plymouth, anticipating the fiction.

Wodehouse's life, it seems, was made up of good stories, and the anecdotes tumble after each other throughout the volume. The numerous kidnappings chronicled in his work must have had their origin in an incident at Victoria Station where he and Bolton succeeded in meeting the wrong child, taking him away despite his protests, and—not surprisingly—being accused of kidnapping.

For the period up to the Second World War Wodehouse mixed novels with his career as film writer and lyricist. The money was good, for just one song—"Bill" from *Showboat*—kept him in tobacco and martini for the rest of his life.

The letters in *Performing Flea*, a title bestowed by Sean O'Casey, include references to less happy times in the war, when he was interned and when he made his notorious broadcasts. He is typically reticent about defending himself, though the criticism hurt him badly.

He comments simply: "Of course I ought to have had the sense to see that it was a loony thing to do to use the German radio for even the most harmless stuff, but I didn't. I suppose prison life saps the intellect."

With nearly 40 books still to come, his intellect cannot have remained sapped for long, and it was in tip-top shape—as if he shared a fish diet with Jeeves—for his comments on important matters of everyday life.

Take beards, for instance. Recalling that a lot of chaps in the war grew them, Wodehouse quickly puts the record straight. "Not me. What I felt was that there is surely enough sadness in life without going out of one's way to increase it by sprouting a spade-shaped beard."

Critics, too. He could take or leave them, but when he received a bad press cutting, "an icy look comes into my hard grey eyes, and I mark my displeasure by not pasting it into my scrapbook"—harsh indeed, and no doubt he meant it to sting.

Just how did he achieve that effortless prose and be so funny? Did the muse simply perch on his shoulder and give him the go-ahead? Alas, no. Even he had to work hard at it, making hundreds of pages of notes, rewriting sentences up to 20 times. A modest man, he doubted that anybody would be interested either in an autobiography or an explanation of his methods.

He had just one hope. "When in due course Charon ferries me across the Styx and everyone is telling everyone else what a rotten writer I was, I hope at least one voice will be heard piping up, 'But he did take trouble'."

Sir Plumb need not have worried. He remains the Master.

Christopher Warman

Opportunity for an artistic roller-coaster ride

A New Spirit in Painting
Royal Academy

Art from Africa
Commonwealth Institute

Hans Hartung
Fischer Fine Art

Geneviève Asse
Taranman

Right or wrong, as a rule I know quite promptly just what I think about anything I see. But I must confess that *A New Spirit in Painting*, the ambitious new show at the Royal Academy till March 18, had me stumped. And not only me, it would seem: the private view looked rather like one of the cosier circles in Dante's Inferno, with people drifting round and round, glazed and apparently hopeful that enlightenment might descend, like grace, from some higher authority. Illumination may descend from some Higher Authority in due course but it will not do so, I fear, from me. Even though I have had it very carefully explained to me what the show is supposed to be about, and what it is meant to demonstrate, the show itself remains hopelessly confusing.

What it is intended to convey, apparently, is the continuing vitality of painting as painting during the 1970s, an era when, convention would have us accept, the traditional media were played out, or were felt to be by all the most dynamic and creative artists, so that instead we had performance art and conceptual art and video and installations and environments and all the rest of it. Can this be true, the exhibition's organizers ask us, of a decade which began with Picasso still painting away with undiminished vitality, and ended with several modern masters still quite satisfied with traditional means of expressing themselves and a bright new generation rediscovering the pleasure of painterliness? So, to document this feeling that things are never quite so cut-and-dried as all that, we have assembled for us groups of work produced during the 1970s by 38 artists, most of them still living, ranging in birth-date from 1881 (Picasso) to 1951 (Julian Schnabel), with perhaps the main weight in the generation now pushing 50.

That, at any rate, is the theory. In practice the exhibition succeeds in making none of these points, except the most elementary, that there was after all a certain amount of interesting and valuable painting going on during the 1970s. Indeed, supposing one accepts that an exhibition should be something approaching a work of art in its own right, articulating its own significance, assembling things in such a way as to set off new and extraordinary vibrations, then this show is close to disastrous. Artists are hung together who never should be: set the grand improvisations of De Kooning's last abstracts against the humming precision of recent Balthus and you can be pretty sure that one will negate the other (in this case De Kooning is annihilated). And in room after room the overriding impression is one of arbitrariness and incoherence.

To be fair, there are some excellent individual ideas. One of them is the magisterial presence of a room of 1970s Picassos, astounding in their vitality. Another is the inclusion of Balthus, who makes the most powerful effect in the whole exhibition, though what, if anything, he stands for apart from himself is obscure—though with these monumental and mysterious paintings it hardly matters. The third veteran to emerge with enhanced credit is Jean Helion, whose brightly coloured figure compositions and still-lifes introduce, in all seriousness, a much-needed touch of gaiety into these generally rather grim proceedings.

One could argue endlessly about why this painter is included and that excluded, but no doubt we have to allow that this is a deliberately personal choice by the three devisers, Christos M. Joachimides, Norman Rosenthal and Nicholas Serota, and merely register that there are no super-realists at all, the Who Chicago group are curiously ignored, though they would pull together so many strands which are otherwise left hanging loose in the show, and that on the other hand the representation of recent German painting is boringly confined to the same travelling circus—Lüpertz, Richter, Kiefer, Baselitz, Hacker—who seem to have turned up everywhere as a package deal in the last few years. The British representation by established figures like Bacon, Freud, Auerbach, Hodgkin and Kitaj naturally holds few surprises, though the newest Hockneys, very large, very brightly coloured, boldly conventionalized Los Angeles landscapes, do mark a promising new departure and confirm Hockney's continuing ability to break out of the constrictions his familiar manner might seem to impose, while it is intriguing to observe that one-time super-realist Malcolm Morley has gone over just in time to the sort of splashy, cartoony painting which seems to be favoured in this show.

I suppose I should mention the show's principal "conversation-starter" (as American hostesses will have it), Baselitz's series of quite conventional nudes hung upside-down. He insists that they are also painted upside down, and one of them has dribbles of paint off its "top" to prove it. Otherwise the assertion seems improbable and, worse, irrelevant. I can see some sense in hanging paintings upside-down to make a particular point about significant form, plastic values and the unimportance of mere subject-matter, but what the sense of painting them upside-down, except as an empty demonstration of virtuosity, might be I fail to grasp. Still, probably a friend of mine (who, being a doctor, maybe has a vested interest in shock therapy) has a point when he says that he liked the show because most British shows of this sort go through so many committees that they end up drearily respectable and safe, whereas this is more like a lot of American shows, which mix the masterpieces and garbage and leave one, excitingly, to sort out which are which for oneself. If you feel in the mood for an artistic roller-coaster ride, obviously the Royal Academy should be your immediate destination.

By comparison, the major show of *Art from Africa* at the Commonwealth Institute until April 5 seems, surprisingly, like a haven of balance and order. Perhaps one might expect a lot of political art; perhaps one might fear to encounter a lot of debased and kitschy pastiche of traditional forms and styles. In the event what we get is neither—there is a certain amount of political painting from a Nigerian artist who calls himself Middle Art, decorated with inscriptions like "War is Not Good" and "Suffering Stages of Life, From the War Until Now", and some of the sculpture comes close to pastiche, though pastiche as good as Bernard Matemara's *Ostrich Man* from Zimbabwe, a great brooding bird which seems to be made up largely of giant fingers, immediately takes on its own independent value.

But in the main the artists go their own ways, using sometimes traditional forms and ideas with happy freedom to modern ends, or drawing from the universal vocabulary of naïf art. In several areas the work approximates to sign-painting: there are very desirable signs for barbers and tailors from Upper Volta, and Samba from Zaire paints over and over, obsessively, mermaids on the rocks (sometimes bearded) in a style suggestive of European fairground painting. Other artists work in a style rather like (to the untutored European eye) some of the famous psychotic artists: though since the most prominent of these, Valente Malangatana from Mozambique in particular, come from southern Africa one may suspect that tribal art is a strong influence. And in fact one of the strongest impressions one comes away with is of distinct local identity: the Ethiopian paintings all have a family resemblance to Coptic manuscript illumination; the Tanzanian paintings, all apparently produced by members of one vast literal family, might in their bright, clearly defined forms and colours all be the work of one man. Altogether, it is a show that opens doors.

Further on the subject of the continuing validity of painting in recent years (if we were in any doubt about it), there are two smaller one-man shows which have something to say. The seventy-fifth birthday tribute to Hans Hartung at Fischer Fine Art until February 13 mainly confirms my feeling that Hartung is a spectacular example of progression by revelation. The pre-war works, with their random, childlike scribbles and shapes, do nothing for me. But suddenly, when after the war he embraced Tachisme wholeheartedly, the results are spectacular: these nervously precise flicks and stabs of paint, and, in the major works of the 1960s, the smouldering intensity of the background colours, bear out completely the imaginative efficacy of Hartung's intuitive comprehension that matter is energy.

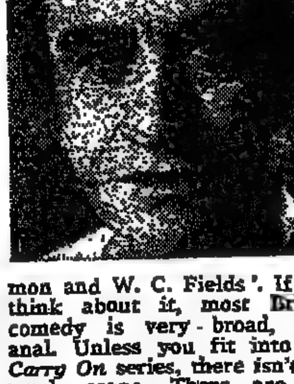
Geneviève Asse, a generation younger, is well known on the Continent but little shown in Britain: the exhibition of her *Suite Celtique*, a series of oils on paper painted around 1970, at the Taranman Gallery, 236 Brompton Road, until February 14, seems to be her first solo show here. The hallmark of this gallery has always been extreme refinement and sophistication, and absolutely impeccable taste—qualities we have tended to undervalue of late. These delicate, exquisite abstractions, from landscape and seascape we may suppose, have these qualities in full measure: one can understand exactly why de Staël, a friend of the artist, admired her work so much. Like Diebenkorn's endless *Ocean Park* series, to which they have some curious and quite accidental resemblances, these paintings seem to have very little to them, until you take into account all the possibilities which have been rejected to arrive at such disciplined intensity, so lightly borne.

John Russell Taylor

R. B. Kitaj; The Sailor (David Ward), 197980, in A New Spirit in Painting at the Royal Academy

James Booth: actor who turned rewrite man

A dusty courtyard in Cuernavaca, Mexico, packed with stunt men dressed as nineteenth-century Mexican soldiers and local extras dressed as peons seems an unlikely place to track down James Booth. "Track down" are the right words since Booth, once one of Britain's top comic actors, literally fled the United Kingdom five years ago. At first he went to Broadway in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*. When the run ended Booth kept on going across America, finally ending up in Los Angeles, where he has been living ever since.



"I'd been a rich man in England. I had a company which bought flats, renovated them and sold them. In 1974, when the property boom collapsed, I was wiped out overnight. I went from leading a push-button life with chauffeurs, secretaries, everything done for me, to a situation where men in bowler hats were coming out of the woodwork demanding money. I'd lost all my capital and I owed a fortune to the banks. I was in my mid-forties, I had a wife and four kids, two of them at Millfield, and I had to think about how I was going to support them. I was very bitter. I decided the last thing I wanted to be was a middle-aged actor in London, hanging round the pubs, waiting for work."

Booth began his career with Joan Littlewood's company at Stratford East. Once described (by the *Evening Standard*) as one of the 10 most handsome men in London, he was, by his own admission, "never a leading man". He came from the wrong class to be a natural British hero and he was too rebellious to transcend his origins as did an Albert Finney or a Tom Courtenay. Besides, there was always something wolfish, essentially untrustworthy about Booth's stage and screen persona—an asset he exploited in a succession of roles as a smooth, fast-talking confidence trickster, a Cockney hustler, whether of women or wages. He was in *Fings Ain't Wot They Used Ter Be* and the film *Sparrows Can't Sing* for Miss Lockwood, then in *Zulu*, *Robbery*, *The Man Who Had Power Over Women*, *The Bliss of Mrs Blossom* and a score of other British pictures and television plays.

"I was lazy about being an actor", he says. "The parts came too easily and so did the money. By the time I left the country, I reckon I was functioning on about 10 per cent of my talent. As a young actor, one of my problems was that I could never decide what I really was. I did a film with Shirley MacLaine once and the *New York Times* described me as 'a cross between Jack Lemmon and W. C. Fields'. If you think about it, most British comedy is very broad, very anal. Unless you fit into the *Carry On* series, there isn't too much scope. There are the upper-class parts, played by a Nicholas Parsons or a Leslie Phillips, and the lower-classes, the late Sid James or Kenneth Connor, who take the mickey out of them. I didn't fit into either of those categories.

"In 1974, when I lost everything, I was a terrified man. I underwent a sort of spiritual metamorphosis. I'd been known as a roustabout, a drinker. I had to take a look at myself and I didn't like what I saw. I hadn't done the things I should have done. I should have helped Joan more, carried on her work. I arrived in Los Angeles with my family. I paid the first and last month's rent on a small apartment, I rented some furniture, and after I'd done all that, I had exactly 1000 dollars left. I had a few contacts and I'd written with Joan, and I started to get work rewriting other people's scripts."

He has been a rewrite man ever since. Among his efforts was *Sunburn*, the second of Farrah Fawcett Major's (as she was then) attempts to switch from being a television star to a film star. "I was the one who turned that film into a comedy. The script I wrote attracted Art Carney and Chuck Grodin to the project, but it was a very troubled production. The director, Dick Sarafian, rewrote extensively, then the producer got in on the act. I refused to go down to the location, the situation was so bad."

Has he done much acting in the last five years?

"Virtually none, although I did have a small part in *The Jazz Singer*. I don't even have an American agent. It's very difficult for British actors over here. If they need a British actor, they'll usually import one. Then the bulk of the acting work is television and most American television is ethnic—I can hardly play a California sheriff or an Italian from the Bronx." However, Booth did appear on the Los Angeles stage in a musical he wrote himself. Called *The Al Chemist Show* (after Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist*) it featured Booth, Georgia Brown and Al Mancini. "We did it for nothing at a small theatre. We made around 10 dollars a week which covered our petrol. It went well enough so that we're getting the music rewritten now and hoping to mount it in London next year." The "we" refers in part to Booth's close ties to Hemdale, the British stage and film production company.

Then there was Booth's reason for being in that Mexican courtyard. He was appearing in *Zorro and the Gay Blade*, a comic version of the old Douglas Fairbanks-Errol Flynn swashbucklers. The film stars George Hamilton and is a follow-up to Hamilton's highly successful Dracula spoof, *Love at First Bite*.

"I play Velasquez, the assistant villain. He's a cross between Long John Silver and Captain Hook, with a sword and a gold eyepatch. He's a terrible bully and a terrible coward. It was pure chance I got the part. I was down in Cuernavaca doing some rewrites on a Hemdale film, *Big Bucks*, and one day there was a knock on the door of my hotel room. It was the director Peter Medak who's doing *Zorro*. He'd heard the typing and come to see what was what. He'd no idea it was me. He offered me the role and here I am. It's a strange feeling. Nobody here knows who I am; I feel the way I did when I made my first film, *The Trials of Oscar Wilde*, 18 years ago. I can see their faces when I do a bit of business that's good. They look at me in surprise, as if to say 'Who is this guy? And where did he learn that stuff?'.

"But this is a film full of second chances. Peter [Medak] had a rough time for a while getting any films. And George [Hamilton] is a wonderful actor who's never been used properly in pictures.

Although he has paid off 90 per cent of his debts ("I've no wish to be a bankrupt"), Booth has no plans to return to England. He has not been back since 1975 and says he is depressed by what he hears from visiting friends. "My wife misses it very badly. The only thing I miss is the theatre, even if the actors are paid almost nothing. Theatre in Los Angeles tends to be run by small groups of friends and frankly the standard is poor. They have excellent actors, but there don't seem to be any competent directors. I went to see *Travesties* when it was done in LA by a local outfit, and it really was a travesty."

Joan Goodman

New Passion

CMN/Schütz Choir
Round House

William Mann

The programme which Roger Norrington and his Schütz Choir are singing, this week and until next Monday, for the Arts Council's Contemporary Music Network, is built round Nigel Osborne's *Gnostic Passion*, commissioned for the tour. It will be sung twice in each concert, as it was on Sunday night in London, before being taken to Coventry, Leeds, Durham, Lancaster, Manchester, Denstone, and Nottingham.

Surprise was registered in print recently at the CMN's sponsorship of a programme in which only one new work is sandwiched between Schütz and Richard Strauss. The choice of music seems eminently sensible. No doubt the Schütz Choir could survive an evening of recent choral music; it would be harder on an audience's powers of concentration. Osborne's piece is therefore placed amid other music for unaccompanied double chorus in which the Schütz Choir already specializes, and which may prepare listening ears for the special sound-world of the *Gnostic Passion*, in two different ways, each enhancing appreciation of a strong, substantial composition.

First we hear Protestant sacred music from almost the beginning of antiphonal choralism, learnt by Schütz in Gabrieli's Catholic Venice, and brought home by him to Lutheran Germany. The chaste, ennobling drama of Schütz's German *Magnificat* sets an appropriate frame of mind for Osborne's direct confrontation of two choirs, and probably for the living composer's harsh norm of close dissonance, and alternation of spare line with extremely florid polyphony—the part-writing is for up to 36 solo voices spatially divided, executed with amazing assurance and verve.

For the second hearing of the new *Passion*, Strauss's rich chromatic harmony (two choirs only in the Rückert *Hymn* which ends the concert spectacularly) gives the ears another context. Now we may experience Osborne's music with a predominant austerity, contrasted the more dramatically with the bursts of drama or virtuosity which, this time, must sound less luxuriant.

The Gnostics were an early Christian sect whose sacred writings, in a language of their own, were discovered only in 1945. These supply hymns about God's nature, the Temptation, and the final ecstatic prayer to Jesus. The third movement, in Greek, is part of *The Hymn of Jesus*, as set in English by Holst. Regrettably, the programme did not include even English versions of these texts.

LPO/Davis

Festival Hall

Noël Goodwin

Ten years after he first began to win a wider reputation with a performance of Janacek's *Glagolitic Mass* taken over at short notice in this hall, Andrew Davis was able to return to it on Sunday with a more considered but no less vivid reading. His conducting was very much in the joyful, affirmative spirit of the work, a Mass of life if ever there was one, and a dramatic contrast to that other setting of the same Old Slavonic text by Janacek's contemporary, Josef Foerster, which the BBC thoughtfully broadcast a couple of days earlier.

After the sober, churchly devotions of Foerster, Janacek's exhilarating challenge aroused the senses. I was reminded of the composer's incisive reply to the suggestion that this Mass showed he had become a believer in old age: "not old", he wrote (he was 72), "and not a believer, until I see for myself". Mr Davis challenged his listeners if not to see, at least to hear for themselves how much praise can be found in prayer when the music is freed from the deadening restraint of theological convention.

On this occasion the orchestral playing was notable for its forthright, radiant character and a spirited momentum, particularly in the "Credo" and "Sanctus". Christopher Powers-Broadbent obtained a suitably fierce registration from the organ to justify the purpose of the virtuoso solo recessional that comes after the end of the vocal setting, and the London Philharmonic Choir, singing the Slavonic text, rose splendidly to its demands, not only at the climaxes but also in quieter moments such as the softly rapturous repetitions of "Veruju" ("I Believe") during the "Credo".

The most curious element seems to me Janacek's failure to make more use of his lower solo voices while pushing his soprano and tenor into a register that is often uncomfortable for both. Gordon Greer, an American tenor from Dusseldorf, sounded forced in tone for a role that needs a Dalibor to sustain it, and Teresa Cahill was the bright-toned soprano.

Anne Collins and Marius Rindzler completed a solo quartet who all had problems in projecting their vocal lines through the texture.

Dalberto

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Joan Chissell

Although Michel Dalberto, victor ludorum at Leeds in 1978, could scarcely have chosen composers more familiar than Schubert, Brahms, and Chopin on Sunday, at least in the context of the first two he came up with works not heard every week.

Schubert's three Klavierstücke, D946, so often by-passed in favour of the Impromptus or Moments Musicaux, and the C major "La Relique", which could almost be considered a rarity in comparison with the piano sonatas he managed to complete, monopolized the first half.

Of the four early Ballades published by Brahms as his Op 10, only "Edward" (number 1) is a repertory favourite. Although the composer supplied no clue to programme in the rest, Mr Dalberto was an engrossing story teller throughout, favouring dramatic contrasts of andante and allegro tempo in the first two (the strange staccato section in the middle of number 2 needed clearer pedalling), allowing hobgoblins and fairies to take over number 3, and compressing a wealth of intimate sentiment into the melody and murmuring Schumannesque figuration of number 4.

With Chopin we were on more familiar ground. While the Barcarolle seemed to need more elegant contours, more sensuously beautiful lyricism, the fourth Ballade, even if lacking its full introductory wonder, was richly unfolded.

Seven operas for Buxton season

Scottish Opera and English National Opera North are to present a joint season of seven operas at Buxton Opera House in the spring. From March 31 to April 4 Scottish Opera presents *La Bohème*, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *The Barber of Seville*, the last of these in English translation. From April 7 to April 11 ENON presents *Tosca*, *The Magic Flute* and a double bill of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* and Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tiresias*, all in English apart from the Latin *Oedipus*.

End of era at Komische Oper

The new production of *Peter Grimes* at the Komische Oper in East Berlin brings not only the last production by Joachim Herz as director of this house but also the end of what future musical historians will nostalgically look back upon as the Felsenstein era of operatic production. As an event of note, the latter outweighs the former.

Walter Felsenstein, whom operatic experts generally regard as the greatest theatrical genius since Stanislavsky, founded the Komische Oper in 1947 and remained its director uninterruptedly until his death 28 years later. During that time he developed a truly unique company to which opera-lovers made pilgrimages from all over the world.

Both Stanislavsky and Felsenstein came to opera by way of the dramatic theatre and both insisted on equal importance for both the dramatic and the musical aspects of an opera. Also like Stanislavsky, in the interest of immediate communication Felsenstein made it a matter of principle to give his audiences opera in the language they spoke and understood; when he did *Carmen* in Moscow he did it in Russian, and at La Scala, when he staged Janácek's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, he did it in Italian. These principles, together, constituted the foundation of what Felsenstein preferred to call not opera but *realistisches Musiktheater*.

Felsenstein had two principal disciples, Götz Friedrich and Joachim Herz, neither of them a stranger to London's opera-lovers. Friedrich settled in the west several years ago; this autumn he will move from Hamburg to take over as head of West Berlin's Deutsche Oper. Herz, after raising the Leipzig Opera to heights of quality it had never known, eventually became Felsenstein's successor at the Komische Oper.

He took over a post involving enormous difficulties, complications, and pitfalls, and the ensuing years have at times proved stormy indeed. Several months ago the Ministry of Culture issued a laconic statement that Mr Herz's tenure would end with this new production of *Peter Grimes*.

To succeed Herz at the Komische Oper as chief state director, Harry Kupfer will come from Dresden. Mr Kupfer has done outstanding productions not only there but also at the Berlin State Opera, in Frankfurt, and in Bayreuth, but he never worked with Felsenstein and, unavoidably, he will not continue the Felsenstein tradition. When the Felsenstein and Herz productions now in the repertory run their courses, the Komische Oper, in the form which brought it world-wide fame, will recede entirely into memory and into history.

One would like to say that Mr Herz's final production here—the end of an era!—took place in a blaze of glory, but in spite of its many excellences it does not represent him at his best. One also had reservations about Richard Armstrong, on loan from the Welsh National Opera, who conducted; he deserves credit for the evening's considerable musical excellence, but far too often—even in the orchestra's storm interlude—he tended towards tempi which cast aside tension and left the music regrettably flaccid.

Some years ago, in Götz Friedrich's Komische Oper production of *Jenufa*, John Moulson performed the role of Laca unforgettably; he also seemed destined by nature to sing Grimes. Opening-night jitters caused him some trouble with his high notes, but he turned in, overall, an admirable performance. Jane Smitková, as Ellen, and Werner Haseleu, as Balstrode, stood out among the rest of the generally superior cast.

Reinhart Zimmermann, with his imaginative sets, convincingly re-created the Aldeburgh of about 150 years ago, but at times they require the performing of important passages far upstage, with less than satisfactory results acoustically. Eleonore Kleiber has provided, as usual, admirable costumes.

In spite of an outstanding evening of opera, one left the Komische Oper in a melancholy mood. With Joachim Herz's departure, all those inimitable productions which made the Komische Oper a living legend disappear still farther into the past. Owing to a number of factors, economic as well as artistic, we have little or no chance of ever again encountering a company like the Komische Oper during the days of its greatest glory.

Paul Moor

SPORT

Football

Changing guard at Crystal Palace

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

A consortium of six businessmen led by the Wimbledon chairman, Ron Noades, last night bought the 75 per cent controlling interest of Crystal Palace from the chairman at Selhurst Park, Raymond Bloye. The price was reported as £600,000. Mr Noades becomes a director of Palace but Mr Bloye remains chairman.

The deal, which was agreed last month but not officially announced until yesterday, is bound to interest the Football League, who are about to ask for support for a management committee proposal to ban directors of one club from joining the board of another. However, a spokesman for Mr Noades's consortium denied that it was a takeover, although it is expected that the final outcome could be the sharing of Selhurst Park with Wimbledon, of the fourth division.

The spokesman said: "We hope this will finish the speculation. It is not a takeover or a merger, more of a working relationship. The consortium plan to keep the Football League informed of all moves. Mr Bloye wanted to stay as chairman of Crystal Palace and we are happy for him to do so."

A member of the consortium, Bernard Coleman, who is a director of Wimbledon, said: "It is in the forefront of our thinking that the two clubs will share the Selhurst Park ground. It is such a sensible plan that we hope it will be approved. There is no question of one of the clubs losing its identity.

"It is our hope that both clubs will be able to continue. At the moment it is the intention of the consortium to stay on as Wimbledon directors. We hope this will be allowed." Some directors of Crystal Palace are understood to have been invited to join the consortium before the shares change hands.

On February 9 club representatives attending an extraordinary meeting of the Football League will be asked to approve a proposal stopping officials from being involved in the management or administration of more than one club without the prior written consent of the League's management committee.

The crucial point is consent, which will be given if the League consider any amalgamation of financial interests between clubs is not to the detriment of the game. Graham Kelly, the League secretary, has said that the management committee will not necessarily frown upon the idea of small clubs in danger of going out of business being taken over by larger ones, but this is far removed from the trend towards commercial bodies being connected with several clubs. A system of franchise could be the next step.

With Mr Bloye remaining chairman, it seems likely that the Crystal Palace manager, Malcolm Allison, will also stay on, especially as Mr Noades is on record as saying that he believes Mr Allison is one of the outstanding coaches in the League.

Mr Noades, a 43-year-old property developer, originally had competition for Mr Bloye's shares from the chairman of Fulham, Ernie Clay. Last month Mr Clay expressed doubts that in the end his efforts would succeed. Clearly the League are more likely to view a link between a fourth division club and one from the first as being more agreeable than between Palace and Fulham, but their principles on directorships will now be tested.

The league's first reaction to the "working relationship" was cautious, with Mr Kelly saying they would not comment until all the details had been examined, but he added that some aspects of the deal were particularly relevant to the Management Committee's proposals. None of this appeared to deter Mr Noades, who last night said that while Wimbledon now attracted crowds of about 2,200, if they played at Selhurst Park the figure would probably rise to 5,000.

The holders have no answer to McNeil's late calculated strike

By Keith Macklin

Wrexham 1 West Ham 0

The holders are out of the FA Cup after five dates, three matches and 330 minutes. The first true, fierce and accurate example of the striker's art, a shot of calculated power from McNeil, came in the first period of extra time. It took Wrexham's underdogs into Saturday's fourth round and enabled their jubilant followers to forgive and forget the scrappiness of normal time.

McNeil has been a matchwinner many times over, and he took his chance after Cartwright had muffed his effort with the goal wide open and Parkes helpless. The ball rebounded to the striker, whose ferocious left-foot shot flew past the despairing Parkes into the left-hand side of the net.

As West Ham fought back in an attempt to salvage the tie, we got the most exciting period of the match. Brooking made a brave late run, but had his shot blocked and Cross sent the ball across the face of the goal from close range. Stewart fired another desperate effort over the bar and at the other end, Vinter might have nodded in a second from Cartwright's centre.

Wrexham worked hard for their success, while the Hammers, playing their 40th game of the season, never asserted the expected command, appeared well below form and failed to lift their game to the necessary height to beat off a determined Welsh challenge. West Ham were without Lampard and Holland, Brush and Allen deputizing, but these changes provide no excuses for a performance well below the standards they have set themselves.

The game should never have gone beyond the 90 minutes or, to be more precise, 300 minutes. Both sides missed clear chances with finishing which ranged from the sloppy to the crassly inept. The saddest culprit was West Ham's Goddard, who had three chances to polish off Wrexham, two of them so simple that when he hung his head in shame no one troubled to console him.

For Wrexham, Fox missed an equally simple opportunity when he left his Brush behind, advanced on Parkes but shot wide over the far post. Cartwright, otherwise one of Wrexham's most industrious players, shot high over the bar from inside the penalty area and, at the other end, even the skilful Devonshire and Brooking gave no trouble to Davies when left with only the goalkeeper to beat in the penalty area.

Perhaps the nearest Wrexham came to a clear shot at goal was a claim for a penalty minutes from the end. Arkwright certainly appeared to be tripped inside the West Ham penalty area but Mr Midgley waved aside the claims amid uproar.

Parkes, the West Ham goalkeeper, uses his height to outjump Edwards.

Yesterday's results

Today's fixtures

The new, composite Peters

Martin Peters, the former England star, was yesterday appointed team manager of Sheffield United in a move that ended his illustrious playing career. As Peters said after taking over from Harry Haslam: "I won't be playing any more, you can't do both jobs. You fall between two stools."

Peters, who began his professional career with West Ham United, moved to Tottenham Hotspur and then to Norwich City before joining Sheffield United last July. Mr Haslam has not been dismissed. John Hassall, the United chairman, stressed: "Harry is ill at home and certain duties and responsibilities will be agreed but these cannot be finalized until he returns to work."

Peters, aged 37, who joined Sheffield United as player-coach, has a difficult task ahead for the club are heading towards relegation in the third division. Last Saturday, after losing 1—0 at home to Gillingham—their third defeat in four games—they were booed off the field as they sank to twelfth place, their lowest league position in their 89-year history.

O'Neill on the list

Enfield edged out of FA Trophy

Cricket

Botham gets help in fight against injury

Australia bring Walker in for Pascoe

Rugby Union

Remaining member of the senior triumvirate rests on his laurels

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The most capped of England props, Fran Cotton, has decided, at the age of 33, to call it a day. Last Saturday, in Cardiff, he had to leave the field with a slight hamstring injury in the early stages of the international between England and Wales. That evening, when running a temperature, he missed the banquet after the match and he took to his bed as soon as he got home on Sunday. Yesterday this most staunch of performers announced his retirement from club and international rugby.

His wife, Pat, has scotched speculation that his present malaise is linked in any way with the alarming trouble he experienced on the British Lions tour of South Africa last summer. That was first diagnosed as a heart attack and then, mercifully, found to be no more than an infection. "It's nothing to do with his heart," she has declared. "Fran felt very low over the weekend and, although he's better now, he has decided to finish playing. It's completely his own decision, and obviously it's a very sad day for him."

It is a sad day, too, for England who already this season have lost Tony Neary and Roger Uttley, and must now press on without the remaining member of the senior triumvirate. The chairman of selectors, "Budge" Rogers, said yesterday that Cotton will be sorely missed: "He has been a tremendous credit to the game. It's a great blow, but I think he has made the right decision. I hope he'll remain active in some way because he can teach us an enormous amount."

Cotton won 31 England caps, and captained his country three times in 1975, before losing his place through injury. He thought of retirement after coming home from South Africa, having missed a clear chance of adding to his seven international appearances for the Lions and undergoing an operation for varicose veins. But he decided to soldier on and, as I suggested yesterday, an English victory in Cardiff would have satisfied his last playing ambition in the game. Regardless of his latest troubles, one wondered whether he had the motivation to continue at the highest level.

Cotton: can still offer much to the game.

Now England are required to find a new loose head prop before their second international, the Calcutta Cup game against Scotland at Twickenham on February 21. Bristol's Austin Sheppard was the prop reserve in Cardiff, and thus was able to win a first cap. The plan was that, if Cotton had to be replaced, Phil Blakeway, who began his senior career as a loose head, should be switched across from the other side. But the scrummage thereafter was slewed as often as not by Graham Price and company, and it is clear that Blakeway must revert to the tight head position. This confirms that the Gloucester loose head, Gordon Sargent, must be seen as the front runner for Cotton's place. Sargent played against Ireland in the B international at Twickenham in December.

One is left with an impression that England's refashioned loose trio, with Scott outstanding, did creditably in Cardiff under testing circumstances. But scrummaging problems, Welsh superiority at the lineout in the second half, and distinctly modest rations from loose play left England's half backs with little good ball to move. The upshot was that possession from set pieces reached England's inside centre just twice, and not even once in the second period. On the second occasion the three-quarters were skilful enough to create the one good score of the match.

Due allowance must be made for the swirling wind but the fact that Slemen, and then but once, was the only wing three-quarter on either side to get a soupçon of decent possession summed up the quality of the package. It was a miserable advertisement for *international football in these islands*.

When all is said and done, however, England may have to settle now for something less than the dominant scrummage platform that built their success last season. In that event, they must be prepared sometimes to find out what their Lions' three-quarter line might achieve with something less than gilt-edged possession. This could mean that Scott and Steve Smith, when half a chance beckons, may have to be a little less preoccupied with launching attacks on the shorter side.

John Horton may have missed an opportunity, late in Cardiff, when failing to lift a diagonal kick into space behind the Welsh three-quarters and seeing it deflected off an opponent's shoulder. But by then he was on the shortest rations. He had enjoyed as lively and productive a first half as could be expected.

When listing yesterday the plusses and minuses of Hare's game I referred to the occasion when his charged down kick established the position for the last vital Welsh scrummage. Limitations on space denied me the chance to add that he was then under the hottest pressure and that, because a hook kick to touch seemed barely a feasible proposition, he surely would have been better advised to hang on and pray for support.

Blakeway omitted

Philip Blakeway, the England prop forward, has not been chosen for Gloucestershire against Northumberland in the Thorn county championship final. Peter Butler is recalled at full back and Nigel Pomphrey is preferred to Steve Boyle at lock.

Basketball

Roma allows Palace to stay in race for title

By Nicholas Harling

For unsurpassed excitement, Crystal Palace—the basketball court not the football ground—was the place to be on Saturday when last season's league champions came as close as it was possible to conceding their title. Had Palace lost their home game with Ovaltine, Team Fiat would have been able to lose their game still take the championship, assuming they lost no other games.

With 23 seconds left, Ovaltine *leading by 83-82 and in possession*, Palace, it seemed, were on the point of abdication. When they regained the ball it looked as if it was too late to do them much good but the buzzer actually sounded with a shot from their American, Roma, in mid-air. To Palace's ecstacy and Ovaltine's disgust Roma's aim was true and victory went to his side as the shot had been taken before time was up.

Roma, who scored 20 points, followed up with another 27 in the following afternoon's 108-85 success at Kingston over Kelly Girl to keep Palace in contention. They have played two games more than Fiat, who were not unduly troubled in either of their fixtures, winning 79—67 at Trafford Giants and 95—82 over Doncaster. Fiat might have had more difficulty retaining their unbeaten league record, however, had their American, John Stroeder, not taken it upon himself late in each game to put the issues beyond doubt. He scored his side's last eight points on Saturday, their final 10 on Sunday, to finish with a weekend aggregate of 48 and a shooting success rate of over 80 per cent. Cotton (25 points) and Jones (22) were the best marksmen for Trafford. Bell scored 23 and Richards 21 for Doncaster, whose form hardly augured well for their chances in Friday's Asda National Cup final with Palace at Coventry.

Neither are Doncaster certain of a place in the National championship play-offs at Wembley in March. Since the top four clubs qualify, Ovaltine (for the second time) and Sunderland (for the first) may well accompany Palace and Fiat. Sunderland did their chances no harm by accounting for Stockport 91—79 on Sunday. Bunch Martin scored 36 points for Stockport, who had the unenviable distinction the night before of providing Blackpool with their first victory of the season, the Lancastrians succeeding by 81—69.

No less surprising a result was achieved by Brighton, the second-placed team in the second division although they had the fortune to meet Solent on a day when the leaders were without Salers, Guymon and Philip through injury. Johns and Robinson, two Americans brought in by Solent, could not save their side from a 91—85 defeat, the first they have suffered.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men's first division: Trafford 67, Fiat Birmingham 79; Crystal Palace 84, Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead 83; Blackpool 81, Stockport Belgrade 69; Kelly Girl Kingston 85, Crystal Palace 108; Sunderland 91, Stockport Belgrade 79; John Carr (Doncaster) 82, Fiat Birmingham 95. Women's first division: Tigers Hoddesdon 89, London YMCA 70; Nottingham 47, Avon Cosmetics Northampton 67; Sheffield 56, Scandia Homes Solent 79; Southgate 64, Crystal Palace 64.

Hockey

No place for Hounslow in quarter-finals

By Sydney Friskin

Hounslow, the national indoor champions in 1975 and 1976, are for the first time not among the qualifiers for the quarter-final round of the club championship to be played at Crystal Palace on March 13. The eight survivors are Southport, Beckenham (last year's winners), East Grinstead, Teddington, Slough, Blackheath, Pelican and Tulse Hill (runners-up). The draw will be announced today.

The scene of Hounslow's elimination was Cambridge where East Grinstead qualified from pool three. At the same centre Teddington eliminated St Albans in pool four on goal—difference. In a tournament dominated by Southern teams, Hampstead had little luck in pool one from which RAF Strike Command withdrew. It meant that Hampstead had to travel all the way to Bury in Lancashire to play two matches. They lost on goal difference to Southport.

As expected, Slough qualified easily from pool five at Slough where the main opposition came from Guildford.

Six marathon men

Britain are sending three-man teams to marathons in Beppu, Japan, on February 1 and in Auckland on February 8. Dave Black (Tamworth), Ian Ray (Salisbury) and Graham Laing (Aberdeen) will be running in Beppu and Dave Cannon (Gateshead), Trevor Wright (Wolverhampton and Bilston) and John Graham (Birchfield) go to Auckland.

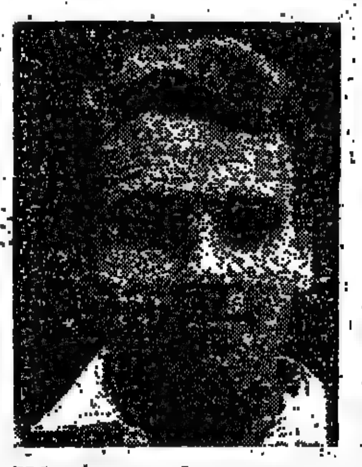
Book review

A selection to appeal to all devoted horsemen

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

Continuing our series on famous teams with the university side inspired by Alan Smith

When Dark Blues radiated a certain light



Young stars who came out to play: Alan Smith (left) and the Nawab of Pataudi, "Sid" to his friends.

David Green

Olympic Games

Permanent site opposed

The Pan-American Sports Organization (ODEPA) in Mexico have opposed setting up a permanent

International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Latest European snow reports

هكذا من الأصل

SPORT

Tennis

If Borg had his way he would not have won

New York, Jan 19.—Bjorn Borg last night became only the second player to retain the Grand Prix Masters title, a feat which did not prevent him criticising the event's format. The Swede overran Ivan Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, 6—4, 6—2, 6—2 to capture $100,000 of the $400,000 prize money and emulate Ilie Nastase's feat of keeping the title after winning it in 1971. The Romanian also won it in 1973 and 1975.

Lendl was an impressive winner over Borg when they last met in the 1980 Swiss indoor championship; but last night he was upstaged by the Swede, who produced the kind of uncompromising tennis that makes opponents despair of beating him.

The 20-year-old Czechoslovak emerged from the match with a complaint common to Borg victims—"I did not play badly but still lost." Lendl said the Swede's refusal to commit unforced errors was largely responsible for the result. "He was returning everything."

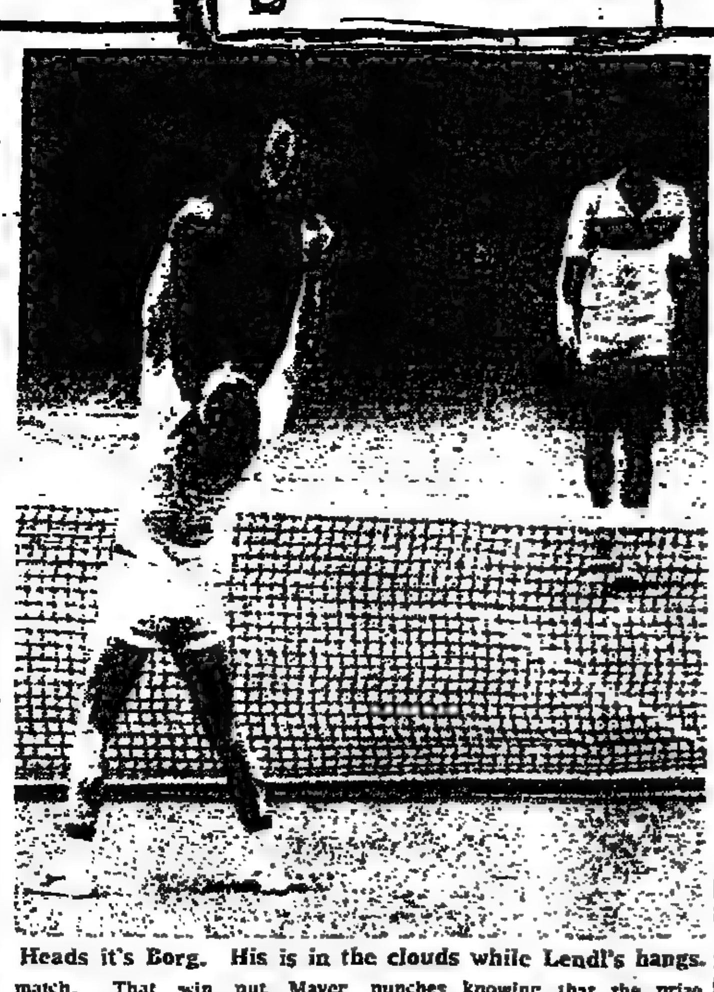
After his convincing win it was somewhat surprising that Borg should criticize the format of the Masters, particularly since, if his main objection had been met, he would not have reached the final.

He said it was wrong that a player could lose in the eight-man round robin stage of the competition and yet qualify for the final. "I think it should be an elimination tournament," he added.

Had this been the case last week, Borg would have lost his title when he went down in straight sets to Gene Mayer, an American, in his final group match. That win put Mayer through to a semi-final meeting with Lendl, runner-up in the second group; Borg faced up to his old American rival, Jimmy Connors.

Connors also had a moan which amounted to a criticism of the format after he had beaten Lendl during the round robin stage of the competition. When they met both were assured of semi-final places and Connors suggested that Lendl might have pulled a few punches knowing that the prize for winning was a meeting with Borg.

But perhaps the most surprising thing of all during the week was Borg's public display of discontent during his match against John McEnroe on Thursday. It was as if he were deliberately attempting to lose his nickname "The Iceborg" as he indulged in a slanging match with the umpire which cost him two penalty points.—Reuter.



Heads it's Borg. His is in the clouds while Lendl's hangs.

Skiing

Miss Nadig defeats illness and the longest of downhill courses

Crans-Montana, Switzerland, Jan 19.—The Swiss downhill expert, Marie-Therese Nadig, today overcame a bout of influenza to win the women's World Cup race here, pipping her compatriot, Doris de Agostini, by one-tenth of a second. Miss Nadig sped through the 35 control gates on the longest downhill course in the women's calendar in a time of one minute 44.5 seconds to record her sixth victory in World Cup events this season.

The 26-year-old Swiss girl has also shown tremendous improvement in the giant slalom and now leads the overall cup table by a massive 49 points. Perrine Pelen of France will be hoping to narrow the margin in tomorrow's slalom here.

Miss Nadig said she had a slight temperature throughout the weekend but decided to continue training. Two earlier downhill races this year were postponed because of bad weather. By the time she began the 2.7-kilometre course (altitude drop 710 metres), the overnight snow was already firmly packed to give a hard landing in the jumps.

Miss de Agostini still heads the downhill standings after six events, but the slim 22-year-old was clearly annoyed by her performance today. Second best enabled her to advance from sixth to fifth in the overall table, but she plunged her sticks into the snow in annoyance at wasting valuable time during the descent.

Light snow, a continuation of the blizzard which caused yesterday's downhill race to be postponed, wafted down the Swiss national course but did not interfere with visibility, and the impact of successive competitors accelerated the pace. Christa Kinshofer, of West Germany, hitherto known as a giant slalom expert, caused a stir by recording the third fastest time ahead of the Czechoslovak girl, Jana Soltysova, and another outsider, Marie-Cecile Gros-Gaudenier (France).

Cornelia Proll (Austria), setting off immediately before Miss de Agostini and Miss Nadig, had been expected to repeat the form which has already brought her one downhill victory this season, but she unexpectedly slumped to 13th position.

WOMEN'S DOWNHILL: 1, M-T. Nadig (Switzerland) 1min 44.50sec; 2, D. de Agostini (Switzerland) [illegible]

DOWNHILL STANDINGS (after six races): [illegible]

OVERALL STANDINGS: [illegible]

NATIONS CUP: [illegible] —Reuter

COURMAYEUR: [illegible]

How pollutants like man turn a dream world into a maelstrom

Unstill glides the trout stream

The cost of reservoir trout fishing is likely to be increased in the coming season, specially in the Midlands and in some areas of southern England, by something between 15 to 30 per cent as water authorities, in a new era of stringency, struggle to match income to expenditure. The increases mean that reservoir bank permits for a day's trout fishing will be going up from £3 to £4 in some areas, from £4 to £5 in others, and in some cases higher.

The cost of producing trout has gone up considerably in recent years—the cost of water food has almost doubled—wages have been trying to keep pace with inflation, and in the Midlands, specially in areas of high unemployment, attendances at trout reservoirs were noticeably less towards the end of last season.

The secretary of one of the big fishing clubs says that many anglers are now selling their trout in order to help pay for their permits—a factor which no doubt the water authorities and their fishery committees are taking into account in increasing prices.

Even so, of course, reservoir trout fishing, which has hidden subsidies not shown in the ordinary income and expenditure accounts, is still by far the cheapest trout fishing available anywhere near the big industrial areas and is likely to remain so.

The price of a day ticket at one of the privately run lake fisheries in southern England is considerably higher—working out at something between £8 to £12 or more a day. For this, of course, one has more privacy—an important point—and the certainty, all other things being equal, of catching more and also larger trout than on the public reservoirs, possibly excluding the Anglian Water Authority's reservoir at Grafham, which had remarkable results in 1980 under the care of Fleming Jones.

But that was something of an exception. Nor are the private trout lakes, in spite of their advantages, making much of a profit. Some, this year, with luck, will merely break even, if that.

All the more surprising that there are still men, and women, who want to get away from it all, retire to the depths of the country and run a fishery in spite of all the obvious hazards—the wet, the cold, the mud, the long hours and the constant threat of disaster from the unaccountable arrival of one of the many diseases that trout are heir to, the breaking of dams, water pollution and heaven knows what else that can arrive out of the blue and close the place down in a day.

The latest recruit to hazard his luck in this obviously one-sided jousting with fate is a London civil servant, Peter Lapsley, who has upended wife and family from a comfortable home in the Chilterns, thrown up his equally comfortable job, and no doubt an index-linked pension, to take on a trout fishery near Fordingbridge in Hampshire, known as Allen's Farm, which consists of five small trout lakes. There is also a chalk stream which he describes as being "grossly overgrown".

A hazardous business; but then, for that matter, so are most things concerning fisheries. Owners of Scottish salmon fisheries are particularly anxious about the slowness at which beats are being taken up on some rivers, especially those which suffered last year from an outbreak of disease and an absence of grilse.

Poaching is no less than it was, maintenance costs are increasing all the time, and—as someone said rather gloomily the other day—it seems cheaper these days to fly to New York than it is to get to the Western Highlands.

One thing that would help, so far as poaching is concerned—and the gangs will travel hundreds of miles to get a good haul of salmon—is to restrict the sale and purchase of salmon to licensed dealers. Interference with the rights of free trading has so far been resented, and there is also the question of how easy it would be to avoid restrictions.

There is a feeling that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland are in favour of a licensed dealer scheme.

Conrad Voss Bark

Rugby League

Ringer declines Widnes offer

By Keith Macklin

After spending several days thinking over a "tempting offer" from Widnes, the Llanelli and Wales flanker, Paul Ringer, telephoned the Widnes club yesterday morning to decline the chance to turn professional. Ringer, who won unwanted notoriety by being *sent off against England* at Twickenham last season, recently announced his retirement from Welsh international rugby after a controversial career.

The Widnes club secretary/manager, Harry Greenwood, said: "Ringer thought our offer was a good one, but he told us that he wanted to concentrate on his flourishing profession as a landscape gardener. He is also writing a book about rugby, and has apparently been advised that it would not sell too well in Wales if he had turned professional in the meantime."

—END—

Wimbledon the latest applicants

Wimbledon are the latest football club to inquire about joining the Rugby League.

Mr David Howes, the rugby league spokesman, said yesterday: "We have had an initial enquiry from Mr Ron Noades, the Wimbledon chairman, but it is not a formal application. We have sent them a dossier on how to go about forming a Rugby League club."

He said: "We have already had a firm application from Crystal Palace to join the league but the situation is a little bit clouded by this news of Wimbledon wanting to take over the shares of Ray Bloye, the Crystal Palace chairman. We shall have to clear up that situation."

A deputation from the Rugby League is to visit Nottingham next week for talks with the Greyhound stadium authorities who want to stage Rugby League in that city.

For the record

Cycling

ROTTERDAM: International six-day race: Leading placings after three days: [illegible] laps); 6, G. Knetemann (Netherlands), U. Hempel (WG) 310 (five laps); 7, M. Burton, A. Doyle (GB) 150 (five laps); 8, W. Debosscher (Belgium), M. Venix (Netherlands) 221 (14 laps); 9, U. Freuler (Switzerland), S. Tourne (Belgium) 295 (16 laps).

Tennis

TORONTO: Avon Futures tournament, final: Miss C. Kohde (WG) beat Miss N. Bohm (Sweden) 4—6, 6—2, 7—5. Doubles final: Miss M. Blackwood (Canada) and Miss S. Leo (Australia) beat Miss Kohde and Miss E. Pfaff (WG) 5—7, 7—6, 7—6.

AUCKLAND: International tournament, first round: O. Parun (NZ) beat P. Farrell (GB) 6—3, 6—1; W. Maze (US) beat J. Dunphy (NZ) 6—4, 6—2; L. Stefanki (US) beat E. Tucker (Australia) 6—1, 6—1.

KING'S CUP: Hungary 0, Sweden 3; Yugoslavia 1, Italy 2.

Cricket

NEW DELHI: Women's international: England 113 and 185 (J. Britin 100; J. Powell 59) drew with India 169 and 102 for 7.

Law Report January 19 1981

Queen's Bench Division

Rating authority not entitled to licensed premises sales figures

Regina v Oxfordshire Local Valuation Panel, Ex parte Oxford City Council

Before Mr Justice Woolf

[Judgment delivered January 15]

In appeal proceedings before a local valuation court, the General Rate Act, 1967, does not empower that court or the rating authority to require the ratepayer or the valuation officer to provide a schedule of the actual sales figures upon which the rating valuation of licensed premises is based.

The Divisional Court dismissed an application by Oxford City Council for judicial review of a decision by Oxfordshire Local Valuation Court allowing appeals concerning the rating valuation of licensed premises.

Section 76 of the General Rate Act provides: "(4) On the hearing of an appeal to a local valuation court—(a) the appellant; and (b) the valuation officer when he is not the appellant; and ... (d) the rating authority ... when that authority is not the appellant ... shall be entitled to appear and be heard as parties to the appeal and to examine any witnesses before the court and to call witnesses. (5) Subject to the provisions of this Act, after hearing the persons mentioned in sub-section (4) ... the local valuation court shall give such directions with respect to the manner in which the hereditaments in question are to be treated in the valuation list as appear to them to be necessary to give effect to the contention of the appellant if and in so far as that contention appears to the court to be well founded."

Mr David [illegible] for the applicant, the rating authority; Mr William Glover, QC, and Miss Susan Hamilton for the ratepayers; Mr Alan Fletcher for the valuation officer.

MR JUSTICE WOOLF said that on January 10, 1980, the Oxfordshire Valuation Court gave a decision on 17 appeals from proposals for altering the local valuation list in respect of certain licensed premises in Oxford. The present application for judicial review of that decision was part of a long battle between rating authorities and the licensed trade over the assessment of the gross value of licensed premises.

Where a question arose over a valuation there were always three parties: the ratepayer, the valuation officer and, in particular, the rating authority, whose concern it was to see that too low a value did not appear in the local valuation list. The proper valuation of any licensed premises often raised special difficulties. The problem had been recognized in *Watney Mann v Langley* ([1966] 1 QB 457), where Mr Justice Thompson said (at pp 462-3) that in determining the ratable value of licensed premises it was agreed that, instead of finding the gross value by reference to the actual rent for which the hereditament was let, valuers should find the gross value by reference to their assessment of profitability.

That case had concerned the power which a valuation officer was given under the local government and rating Acts to require the ratepayer to provide him with certain information as to the profitability of licensed premises, and it had been held proper to require the ratepayer to produce figures as to the actual trade on such premises. Because of that authority the valuation officer in the instant case had been furnished before the hearing before the valuation court with actual sale figures and was able to reach his conclusions as to the proper valuations and to agree those with the ratepayers' valuer. The rating authority had also been invited to agree the valuations, but bearing in mind what was said in the *Watney Mann* case about the basis of valuation, the authority was not prepared to agree without having seen the figures on which the valuation was based.

When the matter came before the valuation court the position was that while the ratepayers and the valuation officer could agree, the authority could not form any proper assessment of the agreed figures. It followed, however, from the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council v Shell UK Ltd* ([1980] 1 WLR 205), that the proper role of the rating authority in such proceedings could not be ousted by any agreement between the ratepayer and the valuation officer to which the rating authority was not a party. In that case it had been decided that it was implicit in the scheme of Part V of the General Rate Act that the rating authority must be involved at all stages of the proceedings and that no concluded agreement could be reached without its cooperation. It had been held that there was no ambiguity in section 76(4), under which the rating authority had a right to appear as a party to an appeal and to require the ratepayer to prove his case. That case had made the status of the parties clear.

At the hearing before the valuation court the ratepayers' representative had agreed to furnish the actual sales figures only with the greatest reluctance. The valuation officer had refused to disclose the figures on grounds of confidentiality and alternatively that disclosure would be in breach of the Official Secrets Acts. That proposition was not supported before his Lordship.

While section 76(2) made provision for the valuation court to take evidence on oath, it was clear that it was not bound to take such evidence and that the court was entitled to adopt such procedure as it might determine appropriate. Regulation 11 of the Rating Appeals (Local Valuation Courts) Rules, 1956, also provided that non-compliance with the appeal regulations did not render any proceeding in the appeal void unless the court should so determine, though such proceeding might be set aside wholly or in part as irregular. It was important to have in mind, therefore, that the valuation court was not an inferior court for the purpose of contempt proceedings. It had no powers to order discovery, nor could it compel witnesses to give evidence or to require them to answer certain questions when giving evidence.

The rating authority now objected that at the hearing of the valuation appeal the court, despite the authority's protest, had agreed to accept the figures presented by the ratepayers and the valuation officer without hearing any evidence at all as to how those valuations were calculated. It was also objected that conducting an appeal in such manner was contrary to section 76(4) and (5), and furthermore, was contrary to the principles of natural justice.

His Lordship could not accept those objections. The valuation court had decided to adopt an informal procedure, and it was entitled to accept as evidence the schedule of estimated sales figures which the ratepayers' valuer and the valuation officer as experts in the valuation of licensed premises were appropriate, notwithstanding that no details were provided as to how those figures had been arrived at.

From the evidence of what took place it appeared that the valuation court had not refused to hear any evidence from the rating authority. All that had transpired was that the authority had asked to be provided with a schedule of the actual trading figures on which the valuers had based their assessments. The authority had not made any application, as it was entitled to do, to question the persons responsible for giving the valuation evidence. There was nothing therefore contrary to section 76(4) or (5).

Turning to the question of natural justice, his Lordship took the view that a failure to provide the figures requested could not by itself constitute a breach of natural justice. While the valuation court ought to have taken into account the reluctance or refusal to provide the figures, it could not be said that by attaching weight to the evidence given by the valuers in informal proceedings the valuation court had violated the principles of natural justice because the valuation court had no power to order production of the figures so as to permit the rating authority to cross-examine the valuers on them.

In any event it appeared that while the ratepayers had been reluctant to disclose their figures on the ground that they were confidential, they had offered to disclose them if the court were cleared of all but the interested parties. The authority had not taken up that offer, and there had been no outright refusal to make disclosure.

There was an issue as to whether an application to the Divisional Court for judicial review was the proper procedure for dealing with such problems since an appeal lay from the decision of the valuation court to the Lands Tribunal which took the form of a complete rehearing on facts and law.

The Lands Tribunal had wider powers than the valuation court and could order discovery under its own rules of procedure or, alternatively, by virtue of section 12 of the Arbitration Act, 1950, which also empowered the issue of subpoenas duces tecum in respect of appeals. If, however, those powers were limited and did not cover the rating authority's present complaint that it should be entitled to see the figures, then it must be the intention of the legislation that while the valuation officer was entitled to require production of the relevant information the rating authority, on the other hand, should not be able to obtain it.

It had also been complained that having to rely on an appeal to the Lands Tribunal imposed an unnecessary burden on the rating authority because it was then put in the position of appellant and had the onus of challenging the assessment. In practice, however, the onus at any stage was really on the rating authority when it sought to challenge a valuation agreed between the ratepayer and the valuation officer.

If the valuation court had acted in breach of natural justice, then it followed from the Privy Council decision in (*Calvin v Carr* [1980] AC 574) that such breach could be cured by the decision of an appellate body such as the Lands Tribunal after an appeal in the form of a complete rehearing, particularly since the Lands Tribunal had power to protect the rating authority as to costs.

His Lordship accordingly dismissed the application.

Solicitors: Mr A. P. Nixson, Oxford; Lovell, White & King; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Justices criticized over request to clerk

Regina v Guildford Justices, Ex parte Harding

The Divisional Court quashed a conviction for driving without due care and attention on the ground that, at the hearing of the summons, the justices retired asking their clerk to accompany them and to bring with him his notes of the proceedings in order to assist them in their deliberations on questions of fact.

Lord Justice Donaldson said that the chairman had stated in an affidavit that the justices requested the clerk to accompany them in order to have his advice on the proper standard of proof and the correct tests to apply and to have the benefit of his notes.

The law was clear. Justices were entitled to seek the advice of their clerks on the law but not on questions of fact: *Practice Direction* ([1953] 1 WLR 1416). It was of paramount importance in the interests of justice that clerks should not retire with justices in circumstances which would lead an unbiased observer to think that they were taking part in deciding questions of fact which were the sole province of the justices. If the justices needed to they could refer to the written record of the court, but they should not ask the clerk himself to go with them to the retiring room.

Another troubling matter was that it was suggested that the clerk was consulted on the burden of proof. Clerks should not be asked to retire in every case on the pretended basis that the justices required their advice on the law. The standard of proof was wholly fundamental to the proper discharge of the justices' duties. There was nothing in the case giving rise to any special test. His Lordship was forced to the conclusion either that the justices were incapable of achieving the standard rightly to be expected of them, or the explanation given was a pretence.

Exit man remanded

Mark Lyons, aged 69, a member of EXIT, the voluntary euthanasia group, was remanded in custody for a week in *his absence* by Hendon magistrates, London, yesterday, charged with murder, aiding and abetting sucide and conspiracy to aid and abet suicide.

Rates may not change

Wiltshire county rates could be unchanged in the coming year. Spending is expected to be a *record £166m*, but under the new block grant system Wiltshire will get £102m, leaving £64m, slightly more than this year, to be raised in rates.

Racing

Weights favour Fire Drill in rehearsal for Newbury

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Badsworth Boy, Vascar and Fire Drill, who have all been entered for the Schweppes Gold Trophy at Newbury next month, have been declared to run in the Blakedown Handicap Hurdle at Worcester today. Success this afternoon will not entail a penalty for the Newbury race.

After Badsworth Boy had finished second in the John Barr Handicap Hurdle at Ayr at the beginning of this month his trainer, Michael Dickinson, made no secret of the fact that he was disappointed that his horse had been unable to beat Newgate. *Dickinson will be hoping for better things* this afternoon from Badsworth Boy but I think that he will be beaten again, this time by Fire Drill, who foiled a gamble on Bealnablath at Wincanton last Thursday.

That was a good performance because there was a mass confidence behind the runner-up, who finished 15 lengths ahead of the *third horse*. Yet *Fire Drill's* trainer, Peter Cundell, is of the opinion that his horse would have won with even greater ease had he not wandered off a true line when subjected to pressure on the run-in. Now Fire Drill will be wearing blinkers for the first time in the hope that they will cure him of that bad habit.

Badsworth Boy has been given 16 lbs more than Fire Drill in the Schweppes Gold Trophy because the handicapper was able to take into account Fire Drill's previous good run against News King at Newbury. However, as the weights *for today's race* were published before that evidence was available, Fire Drill will be receiving 20 lbs from Badsworth Boy this afternoon in spite of being penalized for winning his last race. Robert Stronge, who rode him so well at Wincanton and at Newbury before that, will again exercise his right to claim a 7 lbs allowance, so Fire Drill will have only 10st 8lb to carry. With that weight he should *be hard to beat* and he is my selection.

No matter how Badsworth Boy gets on Dickinson ought not to leave the course emptyhanded. In Ma Maison he trains a promising jumper who ought to win the Haig Whisky Novices Hurdle (qualifier) always assuming that he does not do what he did in his last race at Haydock Park, where he swerved and ran out approaching the first hurdle in the straight, dumping his rider Dermot Browne unceremoniously on his backside.

At the time of that incident Ma Maison was leading his rivals by *about 20 lengths. He had won his* previous races at Sedgefield and Ayr by wide margins and each time he led from start to finish. He will not be caught easily today.

Lavengro, who would have undoubtedly started favourite for the Peter Duncanson Memorial Trophy at Fontwell Park yesterday, could not run because he was found to be lame in his box *earlier in the day*. In his absence this valuable prize was captured by Bold Argument, who has now won four of his five races this season.

Whether Bold Argument would have beaten *Glenhawk* had the latter jumped better is a debatable point. Glenhawk made a huge hole in a fence at the beginning of the last circuit and he was lucky not to fall. He was still in front at the last fence but there again he completely misjudged his jump and he was quickly passed by Bold Argument. At one stage Bold Argument led by two lengths on the run-in but Glenhawk staged such an effective counter attack that he was only three quarters of a length behind *passing* the post.

A gamble on Full Sutton, who started favourite for the Sussex Hurdle, went astray when he was beaten all ends up by Tompion who was ridden with no little dash by *Peter Scudamore*. Apparently Tompion lost his confidence steeple chasing at the beginning of the season and has taken a while to recover it. *Now that he is back to his best he* should be followed.

Jim Wilson, who suffered a cracked pelvis in a fall earlier this season, gave Durham Town a marvellous ride to win the Houghton amateur riders Steeplechase. He rode so hard into the first fence that anyone watching *could have been forgiven for thinking that he thought that* he was being pursued by cannibals.

Costly error: Glenhawk (right) flounders at the last fence to let Bold Argument win the most valuable race at Fontwell Park yesterday.

STATE OF GOING (official): Worcester: Soft. Sedgefield: Abandoned. Folkestone (tomorrow): hurdles, heavy; steeplechase, good to soft. Towcester: Soft.

New post for Killanin

Lord Killanin, until recently president of the International Olympic Committee, has been elected a steward of the Irish Turf Club. He was previously a steward *from 1973 to 1975* but resigned because of his involvement in the Olympic movement.

Tuck's luck turns with first treble of career

Phil Tuck, who has been stuck on 13 winners for over a month, had the first treble of his career at Stockton yesterday with *Jane Roy (2-1), Castle Arch (9-2)* and Apple Wine (5-2). Jane Roy and Apple Wine are trained at Sheriff Hutton by Michael Easterby.

Castle Arch earned a tilt at the Topham Trophy at the Grand National meeting with a fluent display of jumping to land the County Handicap steeplechase by five lengths from Game Laddie. Tuck had the chance of riding the *runner-up but wisely picked* Castle Arch.

Castle Arch cruised into the lead three fences out and never looked like being caught. He is trained near Malton by Bob Woodhouse, who recently took out a full permit.

Apple Wine, a four-length winner from Aversun in the Thorpe Handicap Hurdle, is *proving a course specialist, his owner,* Mrs Elizabeth Sigsworth, said: "He is just a fun horse and unbeaten over the course now in 12 months. He has won two flat races and two *hurdles* for me here."

Apple Wine moved into the lead after two out and, although flattening the last, still had plenty in hand. Jane Roy, all the way winner of the Bowes Novices Hurdle, beat Dorothy Kate by six lengths. Easterby decided to let the filly bowl along in front for the first time and the different tactics paid off.

Sedgefield off

The race meeting at Sedgefield today has been abandoned. The clerk of the course, Kit Egerton, said after yesterday afternoon's inspection that the course was frost bound.

Fontwell Park results

1.00 (1.05) SHRIPNEY CHASE (Selling handicap: £860: 3m 2½f)
BALTIC LOVE b g by Current Coin—Arctic Villa (C. Booth) 9-10-9, J. Barlow (11-4 fav) 1
Jocks Bond P. Richards (15-2) 2
Drum Major J. Redmond (14-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 47p; places, 20p, 37p, 25p. Dual F: £1.37. CSF: £2.08. C. Blum, at Newmarket. 1½l, 15l. Royal Romance (11-2) 4th. 7 ran. NR Red Ruck. No bid for the winner.

[illegible]

Worcester programme

1.30 WARNDON CHASE (Novices: £614: 2½m)

2 00/pup0 Arktos, G. Ham, 10-11-5 .... Mrs J. Hembrow
4 000002 Bellarina (B), B. Stevens, 7-11-5 .... R. F. Davies
5 004p-pp Boxberger Pepin, R. Morris, 6-11-5
6 0f300f Coxmoore Sweaters (B), Mrs R. Lomax, 8-11-5 .... S. Keightley 7
7 43p/004 Five Bells, J. Fitzgerald, 8-11-5 .... T. Carmody
8 f0p03p Gypsy Roamer, A. Romsey, 10-11-5 .... Mr M. Castell 4
9 Henlow Gamble, R. Juckes, 6-11-5 .... R. Hyett
10 0/00014 Jaime Porter, J. Berry, 6-11-5 .... S. Houlker 7
11 p-00000 Law Bench, R. Hodges, 9-11-5 .... Mr R. Callow

[illegible]

2.0 BLAKEDOWN HURDLE (Handicap: £1,224: 2m)

[illegible]

2.30 MARTLEY CHASE (Handicap: £1,180: 3m)

[illegible]

3.0 HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (Qualifier: Novices: £1,317: 2m)

401 02-110 Ma Maison (D), M. Dickinson, 6-11-10 .... Mr D. Browne 7
402 31100 Sailors Return (D), D. Nicholson, 5-11-6 .... P. Scudamore
403 400-0fs Sea Cargo (D), J. Johnson, 6-11-5
405 001 Spiders Web (D), J. Webber, 6-11-5 .... Mr P. Webber
408 13- Galway Blaze (D), J. Fitzgerald, 6-11-1 .... T. Carmody
411 000-3 Bryn's Noel, S. Griffiths, 6-11-0 .... R. Hyett
412 -00030 Chelsea Island, A. Taylor, 6-11-0 .... Mr L. Taylor
414 1s Dartingate, D. Howard, 6-11-0 .... Mr N. Oliver 7
416 040 Glitter Boy, M. Eckley, 6-11-0 .... A. O'Hagan 7
417 Hensol's Fun, T. Forster, 6-11-0 .... J. Francome
418 Hugh's Folly, H. Littlewood, 6-11-0 .... Mr P. Webber
420 Mini Market, K. White, 6-11-0 .... J. Burke
421 000- Owensdeen, Mrs S. Richardson, 7-11-0
425 000000 Rolling Pin, C. Jackson, 7-11-0
427 00010 Trevorrack, T. Hallett, 6-11-0 .... B. Wright 4

[illegible]

3.30 COLWALL CHASE (Novices: Handicap: £1,120: 2m)

[illegible]

4.0 BROADWAY HURDLE (Handicap: £1,050: 3m)

[illegible]

* Doubtful runner

Worcester selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

1.30 Henlow Gamble. 2.0 Fire Drill. 2.30 Cedor's Daughter. 3.0 Ma Maison. 3.30 Polar Express. 4.0 Man On The Run.

Stockton

1.15 (1.18) BOWES HURDLE (4-y-o novices: £345: 2m 1f)
JANE ROY, br f, by Royalty—Black Out (J. Roy), 10-9, P. Tuck (2-1 fav) 1
Dorothy Kate T. Carmody (11-1) 2
Home Ground Mr T. Easterby (7-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 53p; places, 31p, 11p, 16p. Dual F: £1.77. CSF: £3.49. M. W. Easterby, at Sheriff Hutton. 6l, 14-1 Inkling (14-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR: Davidgalaxy Affair, Sunlit River, Legal Session.

1.45 (1.47) AYTON HURDLE (Selling handicap: £313: 2m 1f)

[illegible]

Bernard Levin

Don't just stand there

There is trouble in Lowestoft; a statue commissioned by the municipal council from an East Anglian sculptor, Mr William Redgrave, has been met, on its completion and erection in front of the railway station, with much criticism from ratepayers. The statue is entitled *The Call of the Sea*, and depicts a bearded sailor leaning against an anchor; this, it seems, has led townsfolk to declare that the figure is obviously drunk, and indeed to underline their contention by putting whisky bottles (empty, I take it) into his outstretched hand. Now they want a referendum every time such expenditure is contemplated, though I cannot see how that would help, since they presumably will not know whether they like the work of art or not until it is finished. On the other hand, it might lead to the creation of more works of art which people enjoy looking at, a state of affairs which some would say might not be an absolutely unqualified calamity.

Lowestoft Council, of course, cannot win. No municipal venture into the world of the arts ever pleases those whom it was designed to appeal to. Let a local authority, no matter whether in Chelsea or Politician-on-the-Fiddle, Liverpool or Muckspread Canonicorum, commission a portrait of a much-loved alderman or a sculpture group depicting *Art and Commerce Joining Hands while the People urge them to Lead the Way into the Future*, and the result, depend on it, will be uproar.

It would not even help (though it would be an extraordinarily good idea) if Parliament were to pass a law making it a criminal offence for anyone to erect a statue by Mr Oscar Nemon in public. The truth is that local government and art do not mix, and cannot be made to. And yet I do not take the simple view that local government ought never to concern itself with trying to ensure that local artists are supported, and local citizens pleased, by engaging the former to create works of art for the pleasure of the latter. The possibility of success is not the only valid reason for endeavour, nor is the certainty of failure a sufficient excuse for not endeavouring. And this view, which I have always held, is much strengthened by one extraordinary remark made in the course of this story; defending the decision to spend £15,000 of ratepayers' money (obtained from a local lottery) towards the £20,000 cost of the figure, a local authority spokesman said: "The town has no statues at all."

Can this be true? Is there really a town in Britain with no statues? Lowestoft apparently has a sandstone version of Father Neptune, but it is felt that this does not count; the town has no three-dimension representations of any human figures, with the exception of the newly-installed drunken sailor which it anyway does not like.

Max Beerbohm once suggested that in future, whenever it was desired to commemorate the memory of some great man, it should be done, not by unveiling a new statue, but by veiling an existing one. There is much in his view; London in particular is far too well supplied with vast and legless trunks of stone, not to mention bronze, most of them representing terrible generals who lost every battle. (If I remember rightly, Li'l Abner's home town, Dogpatch, had the most notable of these, a statue to its most famous military son, General Jubilation T. Cornpone, hero of Cornpone's Rout, Cornpone's Surrender, Cornpone's Disaster, and other important reverses.) But hideous though all of them undoubtedly are, considered as individual works of art, there is no doubt that London and other cities would be much the poorer and duller if they were removed. Mind you, we do not really look at our statues, and we are wise to refrain, for the best that could happen from too prolonged an examination of some of them would be our transformation into a pillar of salt. Nor could one passer-by in a thousand tell you the identity of any of them, with the curious exception of the only one who is completely invisible a-top his famous Column. And many of them, like the thing at the bottom of Lower Regent Street, are a menace to pedestrians and wheeled traffic alike. (Harold Laski used to insist that the Gladstone statue at the eastern end of Aldwych, which is only a few yards from the London School of Economics, had been put there with the deliberate intention of creating vacancies, through sudden death, among the LSE faculty.)

Statues, of course, create their own legends, like the ancient saying about the one of the Duke of York on the Mall, that he had been put so high up to be out of the reach of his creditors, and that the spike on his head was for filing his bills. The only good thing I know about John Knox is the terrifying but tremendous statue he inspired, which stands in the courtyard of the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh; I once had to be restrained, by friends mindful of my safety, from striking a match on the old horror, which in that godly city, my friends pointed out (this was some years ago), could easily lead to a lynching. Knox got his comeuppance from G. K. Chesterton, who indited this verse to his friend, Father Ronald:

Mary of Holyrood must smile indeed,
Seeing what grim historic shade it mocks,
To see wit, laughter and the Popish creed,
Cluster and sparkle in the name of Knox.

There is also a short story by Saki in which a group of suffragettes devise an entirely new form of terrorism to further their political aims; they plan to erect replicas of the Victoria Monument (the immense and grotesque white thing just outside the front of Buckingham Palace) all over the country, and to go on doing so until their demands are met; the resultant collapse of public morale will, they calculate, bring the government to its knees.

I am very fond of the Shakespeare statue in Stratford-on-Avon. (My compliments to Dr Levi Fox, and if he will be so kind as to refrain from writing to tell me that the works of Shakespeare were in fact written by Bacon, I shall be much obliged.) The Bard, in the traditional *Il Penseroso* stance, is surrounded by Hamlet, Falstaff and other of his characters, and although the entire group is the most awful sentimental twaddle, I never go to Stratford without paying it a visit in its beautiful situation flanked by grass and water.

There is a statue of Papageno in Salzburg, and one of Lord Hailsham's grandfather in Regent Street. There is a 13th century statue in Bamberg Cathedral that is not only one of the most remarkable works of art in Europe, but also bears an astonishing likeness to Claus von Stauffenberg, the hero of the German Resistance. There is a statue in Venice which includes an owl with knees. (Mind you, until my attention was drawn to the beast by Jan Morris leering at it, I was not aware that normal owls do not have knees.) There is a magnificent statue in the front hall of New Zealand House, in the Haymarket, that is two and a half storeys high, and it was carved from a single tree-trunk by a single man, the Maori opera-singer Inia te Wiata, who died tragically young.

And now there is a statue of a drunken sailor in Lowestoft, and none so poor to do him reverence. My advice to Lowestoft is to leave him alone; time has the most extraordinary effect on statues, and I have no doubt that the next generation of Lowestoftians will show him to visitors with great pride, and reject with horror any proposal to remove him to a less prominent site. Come; is there a Londoner who does not, in his heart of heart, love even the Albert Memorial?

Too few triumphs, too many failures: Patrick Brogan assesses the Carter years

The all-American downhill champion

There can be little argument that President Carter's economic policy has been a failure. A man who brings on a recession in election year is doomed to defeat...

Mr Jimmy Carter's ascent to the White House was the most remarkable saga of twentieth century American electoral politics. He rose from the most profound obscurity to the presidency, propelling himself upwards by his own remarkable abilities and using the confusion of the times to his advantage.

It has been downhill for him ever since, ending in the most decisive defeat any president has suffered since 1932. He was frequently less popular, as these things are measured by the opinion polls, than was Mr Richard Nixon in the worst days of his disgrace. The volatility and unreasonableness of public opinion, that blames presidents for every disaster, and seeks salvation in a new face and a new rhetoric, took Mr Carter to victory in 1976 and to defeat in 1980. Now it is Mr Reagan's turn.

Mr Carter won the Democratic nomination in 1976 because he was a conservative and the party was tired of the McGovernite liberals who had led them to the defeat of 1972. In the years since, he has often been accused of being a closet McGovernite himself, particularly on foreign affairs and defence, of being hard on foreign friends (like the Shah) and soft on enemies (like the Russians).

That is most unfair—but, as he once observed himself, apropos the cost of abortions to poor women, life is unfair. President Carter certainly tried to stress the importance of human rights in American foreign policy, harping back to Roosevelt and Wilson—and in his last speech to the nation, to Thomas Jefferson. He quickly learnt, however, that when paramount national interests are concerned, human rights for foreigners come second.

He started out promising to cut defence spending. Within a couple of years he was proposing to increase it by 5 per cent a year. Otherwise, his campaign promises in 1976 were more or less identical with those made by Mr Reagan last year.

He promised to balance the Budget, to "get this great country moving again", to end waste and inefficiency in the Federal Government by reorganizing it drastically, to give the country and the world leadership, to provide a national defence second to none.

President Ford was promising all those things, too, and because he was President, he was not believed. The voters, by a very narrow majority, chose a leap in the dark and put in an outsider, a man who never got to Washington. Now they have done it again, by a larger majority and, very sensibly, Mr Reagan has let it be known that he is going to act as though he will be yet another one-term president.

The problems of the office were too much for Mr Carter. He promised to solve the problems; he failed; he was rejected. Mr Reagan's promises have been even more sweeping and the problems are even worse.

Four years ago, when President Carter took office, he decided to get things off to a fast start by settling two outstanding issues at once, energy and strategic arms talks with the Soviet Union.

He set his new Secretary of Energy, Mr James Schlesinger, to produce a comprehensive energy policy within three months, and his new Secretary of State, Mr Cyrus Vance, to revise the Salt proposals inherited from the Republicans even more quickly.

The need for an energy policy was undoubted and in the spring of 1977 President Carter, in an address to Congress, proclaimed "the moral equivalent of war" and announced his proposals. Congress proved intractable. The proposals were eventually transformed out of recognition and the energy bills were passed three years late.

Mr Vance produced a radical revision of Salt II, incorporating proposals for serious reductions in Soviet armaments, and took them to Moscow. The Russians rejected them out of hand and negotiations did not resume for a year. The treaty that was signed on Waterloo Day, 1979, was very much in line with Dr Kissinger's proposals. It was never ratified by the Senate.

These two dramatic failures were largely the President's fault, and they were faults of inexperience. He told Congress what to do instead of consulting it first, and he also told the Russians what to do. His education as President began then, and by the end of his term, if his relations with Congress were still bad, he no longer made repeated and egregious mistakes in dealing with it.

His diplomacy was always bedevilled by the differences of approach between Mr Vance and Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, his National Security Adviser, Mr Brzezinski was a hawk, Mr Vance a dove, and on one celebrated occasion, when they offered two radically different texts for a speech Mr Carter was to make on foreign policy, he simply stuck the two together, hawk in one half, dove in the other, to the utter confusion of his hearers.

His two great successes in foreign affairs were the completion of the Panama Canal treaties and the Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt. The Panama treaties were the work of presidents since Lyndon Johnson, but getting them through the Senate was Mr Carter's achievement and showed how much he had learnt since his election.

The Camp David agreement was based on the disengagement agreements worked out by Dr Kissinger and were the fruit of a deliberate decision by President Sadat that the perpetual war with Israel must be ended. Nevertheless, Mr Carter's achievement, first at Camp David itself, and then, in early 1979, getting the two sides to accept the final text, was impressive. He kept misquoting The Beatitudes ("blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be the children of God"), but when he goes to his reward, the efforts to stop the wars in the Middle East should certainly count highly in his favour.

There can really be little argument that President Carter's economic policy has been a failure. A man who brings on a recession in election year is doomed to defeat. From the start, he said that inflation was the main danger, and it is now higher than ever.

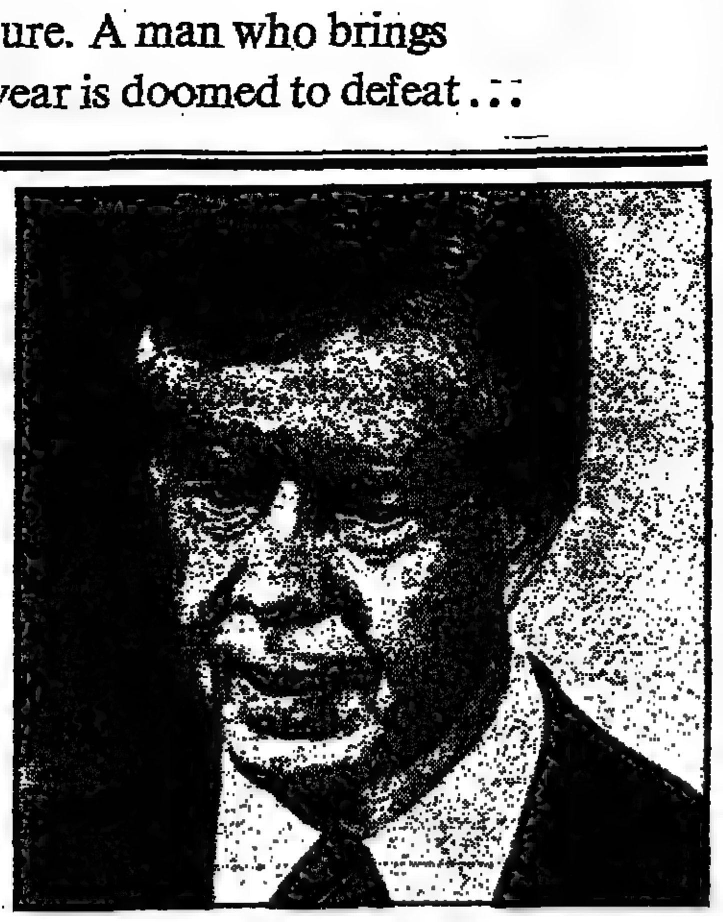
He promised to balance the Budget, and the one he has bequeathed to Mr Reagan, for the year beginning next October 1, will have a deficit of at least $27,000m. America's trading position in the world and the productivity of its industries have both declined. This is not in dispute: the question is how much was the President's fault.

Last year was certainly one of panic, with a series of Budget and economic packages of almost British frequency. He could not control the rise in the price of oil and could do little to control the underlying shifts in the American and the world economy, but he might have foreseen them more clearly; he might have faced the disaster before the summer of election year.

He was, however, preoccupied with the Iranian hostages, his worst failure in foreign affairs. The arguments over "who lost Iran" have already started and will get rapidly more acrimonious as Mr Carter leaves office and the hostages return.

The episode played a great role in Mr Carter's defeat. He was deeply unpopular in the summer and autumn of 1979. His popularity revived when the hostages were taken on November 4, but by the time of the election a year later the whole business was seen as a demonstration of the decline in American prestige and strength, and Mr Carter's failure to end the crisis a demonstration of his unfitness to be President any longer.

That, too, was rather unfair. A loss of prestige is a cumulative affair, and goes back at least to the Vietnam war and Watergate. When Mr Ford was President and Dr Kissinger Secretary of State, the American Ambassadors to Cambodia and South Vietnam had to be rescued from their embassies by helicopter. Mr Carter did no worse than they, and the most sensible attitude to maintain towards the new administration's chances of doing any better is one of nervous scepticism.



The toll of a Presidential term: Mr Carter smiling in 1976, pensive in 1980.

Will Nato really benefit from Mr Reagan?

When the Europeans talk about Atlantic consultation, it has been said, they mean they want to stop the Americans doing something crazy; when the Americans talk about consultation they mean they want the Europeans to obey orders from Washington. That just about sums up the state of the alliance.

Governments in western Europe are now telling themselves that things could improve under President Reagan. Much of his campaign rhetoric will be forgotten, they say, his policies will be more coherent and better managed, and relations between the White House and Congress will be smoother. At least we shall know where we are.

May they be right, but there are worries beneath the surface. Everyone knows that strains in the Atlantic alliance have been caused not just by bad management and temporary disagreements but by a growing tendency to see the world in different terms. Strains of this type could increase because Mr Reagan's world view, on the whole, is more alien to Europe than Mr Carter's.

Mr Reagan and the people around him are convinced that United States military strength has been neglected, that this accounts for a loss of American influence in the world, and that their main foreign policy task is to restore it. Because they are rightly worried by the dependence of the western-world on highly vulnerable supplies of oil and raw materials they want to build up not only strategic missiles but also the ability of the United States to inject military force into unstable areas, such as the Gulf. And because they see Moscow's hand everywhere, they are likely to divide the world more sharply into friends and enemies, becoming more tolerant of friendly dictators and less tolerant of the non-aligned.

They could also be less tolerant of Europe. The impression is now widespread in the United States that the Europeans are not doing enough to defend themselves or to support American efforts to protect their interests overseas. They are seen as sliding into excessive deference towards the Soviet Union as they struggle to protect their little island of détente and East-West trade against the turbulence outside.

They are charged with either taking American protection for granted or deluding themselves that they manage without it by pacifying the Russians and wooing the Arabs. The Americans are thus left to carry the burden of defending the free world without even earning due gratitude.

While many individual Europeans would agree with a lot of this there is a broad European response which goes roughly as follows. The Americans do not understand how much the Europeans in fact contribute to the defence of the Nato area, and how many still have military conscription, which the Americans (and British) have abandoned.

Nor do Americans understand what it feels like to be a European in the front line of the East-West confrontation facing certain devastation in a conflict and increasingly unsure of the strength of the American commitment. Geo-politics give the Europeans a powerful interest in arms control and tend to make them see the Warsaw Pact not as a distant adversary defined by the number of its missiles but as a complex group of partly European states with which the Continent has to be shared.

Furthermore, Americans do not understand that détente is seen in Europe not as a concession to the Soviet Union to be withdrawn as a mark of disfavour but as a broadly beneficial process which reduces the danger of conflict, opens up personal and trading contacts between East and West Europe and fosters developments in eastern Europe which, if they can be prevented from getting out of hand, bring greater freedom to the people and gradually reduce Soviet influence.

Finally, while most West Europeans want a strong United States and a sufficient balance of power between East and West they do not share the faith which Mr Reagan's team seems to have in the efficiency of military power as a practical instrument for the defence of political and economic interests. They doubt, for instance, whether it could be used to secure Middle East oil fields in a hostile environment. It might come in handy for discouraging a Soviet intervention but it could also be in itself destabilizing. It is not a substitute for sensitive diplomacy in a complex world, though it is a necessary adjunct.

These differences point to three main areas of possible Atlantic conflict. First, arms control. The Reagan administration is putting off for six months any attempt to restart negotiations on strategic arms limitation. This is probably wise because arms control is altogether in a mess. There are far too many negotiations achieving too little, and there is a crying need for new thinking. America's failure to ratify Salt II has been a severe blow to the presidency, to foreign confidence and to East-West relations. Confusion over theatre nuclear weapons in Europe is scarcely less worrying, for the West is drifting towards negotiations which will either be too complex to manage or will end up limiting the modernization of western forces in exchange for limits on the Soviet SS20 missile, leaving other Soviet systems intact.

A pause for a sorting out of ideas could be useful. However, there could be a sever crisis of confidence in the alliance if the Reagan administration becomes so obsessed with building up its weaponry that it fails to take seriously the need to put some negotiated constraints on the arms race.

Next there is East-West trade. Many people feel it ought to be fitted more consciously into a general political strategy but it is difficult to see how this can be done, especially with so many industrial competitors outside the alliance. Europeans see the problem but without some better framework they would not react kindly to pressure from America to put additional limits on their trade with the Warsaw Pact, especially if American farmers are released from Mr Carter's embargo on grain exports to the Soviet Union.

Thirdly, there is the growing problem of securing the oil supplies, raw materials and vital trade routes of the western world against local turbulence or Soviet pressure or a mixture of both. It is here that the Americans feel most lonely and the alliance is most confused. A broad strategy looking beyond the European area is badly needed. It will not be found if the United States becomes preoccupied to the exclusion of all else with matching the Soviet Union in weaponry and confronting it with military force on the ground. Nor will it be found if western Europe fails to respond to American concerns. There will have to be give and take on both sides.

The United States will have to abandon any idea of regaining global supremacy and learn to pursue its interests as a more vulnerable power in a more complex environment with allies to whom it can no longer dictate. The allies, for their part, will have to take their global vulnerability more seriously and be ready to shoulder responsibilities commensurate with the voice they now claim in formulating the policies of the alliance. A lot of consultation will be needed.

All these themes were discussed by West European officials and politicians and members of President Reagan's transition team at a recent conference organized by the Ditchley Foundation. There was one possible significant incident. After a long debate among themselves a group of Europeans confronted one of the hard men from Washington with their general conclusions. They expected to be torn to shreds. Instead, the amiable aspirant to a seat of power in Washington said he agreed with everything. If by any small chance this is a pointer to the future the optimists of Europe may not, after all, be deluding themselves. But it would be safer not to bank too much on it.

Richard Davy

LONDON DIARY

A family tree grows in Washington

When Ronald Wilson Reagan takes the oath of office in Washington today, to become the fortieth United States President, he will be the oldest man to have stepped into that weighty office and the seventh who can trace roots to Ireland.

He also merits an entry, like his 39 predecessors, in the nearest thing the secessionist colony can boast to a Royal Family studbook. *Burke's Presidential Families*, which has rushed out a new edition for inauguration day.

Genealogical tables of the American presidents are much simpler than the ones that appear in the English edition of *Burke's Peerage*, not least because they are often a good deal more vague. The Reagan family tree begins with great-grandfather Michael, born in Ireland around 1823, possibly in county Tipperary. He married Catherine Mulcahy, perhaps in England, and died sometime after 1900, probably at Fulton, Illinois.

What English family aspiring to nobility would stand for that sort of imprecision and bet-hedging? Grandfather John was an equally shadowy figure, perhaps born in England, who worked on a grain elevator in Illinois. Father John Reagan emerges more clearly; his wife's mother's father came from Epsom, but John himself is dismissed by Burke as "a shoe salesman who drank too much".

Reagan's descendants take up as much room as his known forebears, what with two marriages and a total of four children, one of them adopted. Daughter Patricia is the actress-songwriter Patti Davis, and son Ronald "Skip" Reagan is recorded as "Back-up dancer for the Joffrey II Dancers."

The writings of President Reagan occupy a single line (his 1965 autobiography *Where's The Rest Of Me?*) but all his starring film roles are listed, from *Love Is On The Air* (1937) to *The Killers* (1964). Of his film career, Burke comments: "Ronald Reagan had the good sense to find other employment when in his forties he became too old to play romantic roles, and was not wrinkled and grave enough in manner to be cast as a patriarch."

Reagan is the only president besides Kennedy who can claim southern Irish origins; the other five Hibernians were actually descended from Ulster Scots. Four presidents could claim direct Scots lineage, three (Van Buren and the Roosevelts) were of Dutch stock, and two (Hoover and Eisenhower) had German origins. England, by contrast, supplied the ancestors for 22 presidents, says Burke.

Americans with a sense of history will be hoping that Reagan's inaugural address is not too long. Until today, the oldest president to take office was William Henry Harrison in 1841 at the age of 68. He spoke in the cold for an hour and three quarters, caught a chill which turned into pneumonia, and was dead within the month.

"The lesson would seem to be that for Presidents on such occasions longevity and long-windedness may be incompatible", says Burke.

Zero rating

Quite apart from his advanced years, I wonder if Ronald Reagan has any other doubts about completing what he has said will be his one term as president. For he must be aware, as a student of American politics has pointed out to me, that all his seven predecessors elected during a year ending with a nought died in office.

This is the record: Kennedy, assassinated 1963; Roosevelt, died 1945 early in his fourth term; Harding, died 1923 while his administration was involved in a major corruption scandal; McKinley, shot by an anarchist in 1901; Garfield, shot by a disappointed public office seeker, 1881; Lincoln (and how did you enjoy the play otherwise, Mrs Lincoln?), in 1865; and poor old Harrison, who survived only five months after his "Log cabin and hard cider" election victory in 1840.

The only two previous "0" year presidents were elected in unusual circumstances. Monroe (he of the chauvinistic Doctrine) had a virtual walkover in 1820 when, according to legend, a single member of the electoral college cast his vote for John Quincy-Adams to ensure that Washington was the only president ever elected unanimously. And in 1800, Jefferson was chosen by the House of Representatives after a dead heat with Aaron Burr.

Should the unhappy augury hold good, it will be President George Bush who ushers in the Brave New America of 1984, thankful that he lost the 1980 Republican nomination.

Low profile

After years of having a hole in the ground where it should have had an opera house, the handsome city of Edinburgh is now suffering from another ugly and equally controversial hole right in the middle of its attractive and familiar face.

The Cockburn Association, one of the guardians of the city's good looks, is pressing the Scottish Office and the city council to publish their latest designs for the vacant Waverley Market site on the south side of Princes Street, which has lain empty for many years. It was Lord Cockburn, judge, essayist and raconteur, who in the early nineteenth century promoted an Act of Parliament guarding the south side of the city's main street from any development that would obscure the splendid view to the Old Town and the Castle.

Although the original law was amended, no building may rise from the Waverley valley to more than four feet above the street at the top. The first plan put forward by the city was howled down by the Royal

Fine Art Commission for Scotland and the Cockburn Association, who declared that a proposed tourist information office would intrude unacceptably on the sight lines.

"In fact it would have a completely disastrous effect, ruining the view from that end of Princes Street", said Oliver Barratt, the association secretary. Lord Cockburn would doubtless have agreed with him. In 1849 he wrote a letter to the Provost on "the best ways of spoiling the beauties of Edinburgh", pointing out that one of the city's most fortunate peculiarities was the valley between Old and New Towns. "For effect the deeper this valley can be kept the better; especially towards the east where its depth is indispensable to that most curious of all city scenes—the northern slope of the Old Town."

Lovers of Edinburgh are anxious that there should be no repetition of the planning megalomania which allowed the huge and hideous St James' Centre to rise from the ruins of a city centre square where once Robert Burns went philandering.

In for a panning

After fringe theatre (in pubs and clubs, often with food), we can now proudly present the logical extension — midriff theatre, in which the food takes over entirely. London is about to get its first cookery theatre, Le Théâtre de la Petite Cuisine, attached to a cookery school in Richmond.

Lyn Hall, the co-director of the enterprise, has a suitably theatrical background for the venture, having been a lissome ballet dancer before she turned to the culinary arts.

The curtain goes up on Thursday and the premiere will star les Frères Roux, proprietors of Le Gavroche restaurant, who are best known for the dramatic daring of their vertiginously high prices

Thereafter theatre-goers are promised demonstrations in bread-making and the preparation of shellfish at prices from £5.25 to £7 each with "a sample of the food being prepared whenever possible". No half-price tickets being sold off in Leicester Square on the day of performance.

Red faces at the Reading Chronicle, *which has been obliged to publish an apology to a Mr Barker of Tilehurst. "He is not and never has been a scientologist as we reported in error last week. He is an engineer."*

Alan Hamilton

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES
New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

TERMS FOR RELEASE

The agreement to release the American hostages from Iran brings within sight an end to a major international crime. In laying hands on American citizens in their Embassy and in detaining them, the Iranian militants grossly violated all accepted norms of diplomatic behaviour. Nations can only conduct their affairs in a civilized manner if such norms are everywhere and at all times observed. In the end, the Iranians have gained nothing by their outrageous action. Under the terms of the agreement reached in Algiers they are to get back the assets frozen by President Carter in November 1979. A pointless act and fifteen months of misery for the hostages and their families, have merely cost Iran the respect and trust of the world community. That it has forfeited it will not quickly or easily regain.

The terms, facilitated by skilful Algerian mediation, are favourable for the United States. Apart from agreeing to unfreeze Iranian assets, President Carter successfully skirted round the most difficult of Iran's conditions—the return of the Shah's wealth—by ordering that such of the Shah's assets as are traceable should be frozen. All outstanding American claims, including compensation for loans which have not been repaid, are to be referred to international arbitration, which is a sensible compromise. As for American interference in Iranian affairs, Mr Carter has pledged that United States policy "is and from now on will be" not to interfere, a formula which blurs the implication that America has done so in the past.

Mr Reagan, the unknown factor

So the agreement is something of a success for President Carter, an achievement at the very last moment to crown an otherwise lacklustre stewardship at the White House. Yet what has given the moves towards a resolution their final push is not so much Mr Carter's patient negotiations as the Iranians' apprehension over what the incoming President, Mr Ronald Reagan, may or may not do. Mr Carter's initial response to the seizure of the hostages was feeble. It was not until six months later that Washington broke off diplomatic relations with Tehran, some time after the United Nations Security Council had voted to impose sanctions against Iran. America, it is true, did impose a trade embargo of its own, and that has had some effect.

The general impression conveyed however was that, having failed to act decisively in the early stages, Mr Carter was left little option but to resign himself to drawn out and debilitating negotiations with an obdurate and unpredictable adversary. The abortive rescue mission ordered by Mr Carter was widely seen as a desperate throw by a man who realized that he ought to have acted swiftly and dramatically long before.

Over the fifteen months of the crisis, many Iranians have come to feel that the holding of the hostages was more trouble than it was worth, and the prospect of it dragging on into a Reagan Presidency must have alarmed even some of the more fanatical elements in the Iranian leadership.

The American and United Nations sanctions have damaged the Iranian economy, which was already in turmoil following the upheavals of the Islamic revolution. Equally important, the breakdown in relations with America meant that the Iranian armed forces found themselves fighting a protracted war with Iraq without spare parts and ammunition for the American military equipment supplied during the reign of the Shah.

It is significant that the first sign of movement toward compromise by Iran came in September, just as the Iran-Iraq border conflict was hotting up, and at a time when the American election campaign was at its height.

Economic cost of isolation

The Iranian leadership has been far from unanimous, however. Indeed it has zig-zagged from flexibility to intransigence, *with the Ayatollah Khomeini* himself often giving the lead, blowing now hot and now cold. The President, Abulhassan Bani Sadr, has throughout taken the view that Iran should rid itself of the hostages problem, indeed should not have created it in the first place. This view is shared by the Western-educated young men around the President, many of whom are trained in economics and are only too well aware of the economic cost of political isolation.

This stand has been vehemently opposed by the majority of the religious fundamentalists organized in the Islamic Republican Party, which dominates the Majlis. Mr Bani Sadr and his aides have also crossed swords with the Prime Minister, Mr Mohammed Ali Rajai, who is backed by the IRP. It was almost certainly the more hardline elements within the IRP which put forward the Iranian demand that America should deposit twenty-four thousand million dollars in Algeria, and raised the spectre of a trial if the demand were not met.

Once Washington had conceded in principle the idea of transferring funds to Iran via third parties, it ought to have been possible for the Iranians to be realistic about the Americans' capacity to pay. Tehran did reduce its original cash demand. But throughout the negotiations, the more hardline Iranians have shown little understanding of how the American political system works, let alone of the complexities of international finance.

At the same time, a number of previously adamant members of the IRP seem in recent weeks to have bowed to the pressures caused both by Iran's economic and military weaknesses and by the impending change in the White House. During the Majlis debate, deputies turned against the argument that holding the hostages was an effective way of fighting "American imperialism". If this apparent change of mind is carried over into the post-hostages period, relations between America and Iran could improve out of all recognition.

American - Iranian relations are bound to improve to some extent in any case. The lifting of the trade embargo will lead to a more normal trading relationship, which will necessarily entail a working relationship on the political level. The Reagan Administration clearly intends to take up a more aggressive stand against encroaching Soviet influence in the Gulf, and would presumably wish to build on compromise over the hostages in order to reestablish a degree of cooperation with the country which was once the mainstay of American interests in the region. There may also be a closer accord between America and its European allies over Western policy in the Gulf, following a period in which Washington was irked by what it saw as the low level of West European support for American sanctions against Iran.

The Europeans will certainly agree with Mr Edmund Muskie, the American Secretary of State, that recent Soviet statements on the subject of the hostages have been unhelpful to the point of malice. Mr Muskie described an assertion on Moscow Radio that the United States was making military preparations for an invasion of Iran as "completely unfounded". The allegation—had it been taken seriously by the Iranians—could have upset delicate talks at a crucial stage. The Russians are clearly unhappy at the prospect of a change for the better in American-Iranian relations, and are aware that the Islamic regime in Iran opposes the atheism and materialism of Soviet ideology. Iran has a long border with the Soviet Union, and is suspicious of Russian territorial ambitions.

The resolution of the hostages question does not mean, on the other hand, that Iran will automatically become more favourable toward the West. The roots of anti-Americanism run deep in Iran. Under the Shah, it is true, America did a great deal to help Iran both economically and militarily. But for the time being, at least, America is widely mistrusted.

The Islamic impulse which brought about the revolution in Iran two years ago is closely bound up with anti-Western feelings, so that no group contending for power in Iran can possibly afford to take an openly pro-Western line.

Four Britons still held

There will be those in America who will argue that by paying even a part of the funds demanded by Iran, the Carter Administration has paid the ransom which it had earlier refused to contemplate. But such arguments will not affect the Reagan Administration, which has the advantage of being able to make a clean start in foreign affairs. In Iran, by contrast, the arguments over whether or not Tehran has made undue concessions to America—and if so who is to blame—could have a profound impact on the course of the internal power struggle. The outcome of that struggle will determine the attitudes the Iranian government adopts in its relations with the United States and other Western countries. One immediate test is its readiness to release the four British subjects still held in detention without trial and without justification.

A case to rest

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, More than 20 years have passed since Parliament in its wisdom decided to impose a retiring age on judges. The age selected (75) was generous, and far above that prevailing in most areas of employment. By a further act of generosity it was provided that the new retiring age would not apply to existing judges. They could be relied on to respond voluntarily to the manifest wishes of Parliament.

The last of those existing judges is Lord Denning, the Master of the Rolls. He is 81, and fond of saying that he possesses all the Christian virtues except resignation. The law reports give signs that he might do well to acquire that missing virtue. His Lordship presides over the civil division of the Court of Appeal. An index of the efficiency of that court is the extent to which its decisions are upheld on further appeal to the House of Lords.

The normal ratio is about fifty-fifty. In 1980 the All England Law Reports contained 14 cases where decisions in which Lord Denning was in the majority were appealed to the House of Lords. All but two were reversed by that House. By contrast the 16 cases where Lord Denning was not in the majority displayed the customary proportion. Eight were upheld by the Lords and eight reversed. This remarkable discrepancy gives cause for disquiet.

Victorian judges were not subject to a compulsory retiring age. One of the greatest of them, Lord Bramwell, retired voluntarily at that same age of 81. He tells us why in his *Reminiscences*: "Time, in its never-ceasing progress, had whispered to me more than once, 'Tarry not too long upon the scene of your old labours, where your presence has made you a familiar object to all members of every branch of your great and responsible profession; and while health and vigour and intelligence still, by God's blessing, remain to you, apparently unimpaired by lapse of years, take some of that rest and repose which you have earned, ere it be too late'."

I have long differed from Lord Denning in his disregard of the value to the citizen of certainty in law and respect for precedent. Nearly 30 years have passed since I first ventured to criticize his views in a learned journal. Yet, in common with the whole of our profession, I hold Lord Denning in the highest esteem and affection. It is those sentiments which now embolden me to remind him, most respectfully, of the wise words uttered by his Victorian predecessor.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCIS BENNION,
24 St Aubyns,
Hove,
East Sussex.
January 5.

Hard choices on defence

From Mr Correlli Barnett

Sir, There is really no need for Admirals Hill-Norton (January 9) and Le Bailly (December 30, 1980) to resort to personal sneers, for there is a case to be made for a "blue-water" strategy. Indeed, it has been repeatedly made since the days of Elizabeth I in the course of the continuing British debate about the correct balance between such a "blue-water" strategy and the Continental commitment, or involvement.

But the point about seapower is that it is *slow power* and therefore cannot affect the decision of a great land battle in Europe. The huge Royal Navy of 1914 was quite irrelevant to the outcome of the Marne campaign. The still powerful Royal Navy of 1940 was powerless to prevent the loss of the Battle of France. To go further back, Nelson's victory at Trafalgar was without effect on Bonaparte's successful Austerlitz campaign.

At the present time, if we fail to maintain or *strengthen our contribution* to the land/air defence of Western Europe, we might well see the decisive encounter lost on the *ground while seapower* is still in the process of securing our supply and reinforcement routes.

But in any case we are not talking about seapower in the abstract but *British* seapower. From the days of Marlborough to the beginning of the Second World War Britain was a great power, a rich trading nation and the centre of an empire. We are now a second-rank, financially straitened, European country.

In these circumstances it seems to me fantasy to talk, as Lord Hill-Norton and Mr Clouston (December 27, 1980) do, of the Persian Gulf, north Norway, Iceland, Greenland, the African littoral and the Indian and Atlantic Ocean routes. Other industrial countries (West Germany and Japan in particular) have important economic interests and routes at stake in one or other of these sea areas; they (unlike us) have the wealth to build oceanic navies in order to patrol these areas if they wished; yet they do not do so. Why then us, except that Nelson was an Englishman?

Moreover, when we have actually needed the Navy to protect our own bread-and-butter interests, as in the cod wars with Iceland, we find that its ships are far too sophisticated for the job. Given the importance of oilfields and fisheries round our *shores, there is good reason* to re-examine the role and kit of the Navy even without entering into grand strategic debates about our proper contribution to Nato.

In any case none of your "blue-water" correspondents such as Lord Hill-Norton really address themselves to the hard choices of priority imposed on us by lack of funds. *Would* they in fact withdraw or enfeeble our land/air contribution to the *defence* of Europe? If not, *what other major cut do they suggest?*

I should add that it is not only in defence that we now have to make *big and painful* choices, but also in welfare and education, as we scale down our traditional expectations to those appropriate to the unsuccessful and increasingly down-at-heel nation we are.

Yours faithfully,
CORRELLI BARNETT,
University of Cambridge (Faculty of History),
West Road,
Cambridge.
January 9.

Arms warning for a new President

From Mr Anthony Rudolf

Sir, President Eisenhower, in his farewell address, stated: "In the councils of government we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defence with our peaceful methods and goals so that security and liberty may prosper together. . . Disarmament . . . is a continuing imperative . . . I lay down my official responsibilities in this field with a definite sense of disappointment."

Twenty years later, almost to the day, President Carter in *his* farewell address devoted the main *section to the problem of the growth* of the superpowers' nuclear arsenals. "It may only be a matter of time before madness, desperation, greed, or miscalculation lets *loose this terrible force* . . . For this generation, life is nuclear survival; liberty is human rights; the pursuit of happiness is a planet whose resources are devoted to the physical and spiritual nourishment of its inhabitants."

A President bidding farewell has no reason not to speak the truth. Both warnings were spoken from the heart. But a striking difference in tone may be discerned. Despite his disappointment about disarmament, there is a native—if muted—*American optimism in President* Eisenhower's words, quite absent from President Carter's. Furthermore, it is arguable that President Carter's warning is necessary because President Eisenhower's was not heeded. Time is short. Meanwhile, the Republic summons President Reagan.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY RUDOLF,
The Menard Press,
23 Fitzwarren Gardens, N19.
January 18.

The land of Palestine

From Mr Brian Wrobel

Sir, *The Times* has been accused of antisemitism for running the series entitled "The land of Palestine" (letter, December 27). The charge seems to carry within it the implication that the Israeli side alone in the conflict deserves to be understood in terms of its human predicament.

Neither Arab nor Jew possesses a monopoly over personal suffering in the Middle East; and this seems reason enough to document the *experiences of people who are part* of the conflict, along with their views.

The Israeli Ambassador (letter, December 24) is correct in stressing the continued physical Jewish presence on the land over the centuries, as well as the attachment to it in prayer and poem. But such physical, emotional and mystical links are not ours exclusively, and it is proper and fair to recall the legitimate sense of grievance felt by Arabs who were born on the land but who are not permitted to live there.

Yours, etc,
BRIAN WROBEL,
1 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.

Doctorate completions

From Professor Sir Geoffrey Allen, FRS

Sir, It is unfortunate that you were unable to allow your Education Correspondent sufficient copy to add one vital caveat to her presentation of an apparent pecking order for the completion of PhDs (report, January 15).

I am sure the person who released the information would agree with me that the order presented was obtained from an analysis of incomplete evidence. Further, the differences between some institutions *listed were not statistically significant*. Certainly the differences were often too small to allow the institutions to be placed individually in rank order.

Nevertheless, the analysis does show that completion rates vary between institutions in the year selected for analysis. No doubt similar variations would be observed between different subjects. The percentage of uncompleted PhD theses in science and engineering does seem to be higher than many scientists and engineers would wish to see.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ALLEN, Chairman,
Science Research Council,
PO Box 18,
North Star Avenue,
Swindon,
Wiltshire.
January 15.

Legal clarification

From Mr Peter J. Rowell

Sir, I refer to Mr A. T. H. Smith's letter (January 12). While I share his view that declaratory judgment should be available in respect of future conduct, the House of Lords have only recently expressed the view that declaration should only be granted in such circumstances in exceptional cases.

I refer to their decision in Imperial Tobacco Ltd v AG (reported at (1980) 1 All ER 866) reversing the decision of the Court of Appeal (1979) 2 All ER 592, wherein it was held that it would not be a proper exercise of a civil court's jurisdiction to grant declaration that acts done were not criminal.

Their view that declaratory judgment should only be available in respect of future conduct in very special circumstances, regardless of the obvious advantages to the private litigant, may well have been the same for refusing the declaration in the above case where criminal proceedings had already been instituted.

Yours faithfully,
PETER J. ROWELL,
66 Greencroft Gardens, NW6.
January 13.

Deciding Labour's future direction

From Mr Matthew Oakeshott

Sir, This Saturday the special conference of the Labour Party meets to decide how to elect the Leader. Having been a member of the Labour Party for 18 years, served as a city councillor and polled 26,000 votes in the October, 1974, general election, I know as well as most the obfuscations and manoeuvres which will accompany this event.

A clear issue of principle is before us: whether trade union block votes, swayed by members of other political parties, be they *Conservatives or Communists, are to* join in the election of the leader.

Since the issue is clear, a great deal of smoke will this week pour forth in an attempt to obscure it. We will be told, in particular, that democracy in the Labour Party will be saved if the conference accepts the proposal that the Parliamentary Labour Party should have 50 per cent of the votes in the electoral college. But the evidence of the last three leadership elections destroys this claim.

The PLP is not a monolith and relatively small swings against its preferred candidate in each of these elections could have led to a diametrically opposite result in an electoral college. In 1963, Wilson beat Brown on the last ballot by 58 per cent to 42 per cent; in 1976, Callaghan beat Foot by 56 per cent to 44 per cent; and in 1980 Foot beat Healey by 52 per cent to 48 per cent. Even in an electoral college with voting split 50 per cent—25 per cent—25 per cent between PLP, *unions and constituencies* those results could have been overturned by a handful of big unions.

Let all the Hattersleys and the Healeys, the Callaghans and the Basnetts, all the grand strategists of the "wait and pray" theory of leadership concede these principles on Saturday if they must. But as they run up the white flag they should not dare to claim a victory. They should also know that many of us with a long and active record in the Labour Party would then conclude that the battles inside the party are lost, but that the war for social democracy is about to begin.

Yours sincerely,
MATTHEW OAKESHOTT,
57 Kennington Road, SE1.

From Mr George Edinger

Sir, Mr Geoffrey Smith's article, "*Radicals in search of a cause*" (January 16) is very much an instance of Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. If personalities like Mr Roy Jenkins, Mrs Shirley Williams, Dr Owen and those who think like them seek to make an impact on, let alone deflect, the course of national politics, they *must first command a power base* in the constituencies, a vital factor Mr Smith ignores.

It seems highly improbable that a breakaway group opposed by the official Labour Party machine, the Labour Party executive, the trade union hierarchy and the bulk of the left-wing intellectuals could even build a party on Labour dissidents and other social democrats (whatever they may be). There is only one mass vote they could rely on from the outset: the Liberal vote.

But while the Liberal voters are not (in spite of unfortunate recent history) another species of Conservatives, they will hardly rally to any force advocating another dose of *state control. Yet if they are sincere* in their socialism this must be the basis of social democratic thinking. Herein lies their dilemma.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE EDINGER,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

Way ahead in Ireland

From Professor Bernard Crick

Sir, Professor Cornelius O'Leary (January 16) is quite right that Mr David Morrison in his article, "Why devolution cannot work in Ulster" (December 29), and Mr W. S. Moore in correspondence (January 6) make selective use of his colleague Moxon-Browne's survey. But that survey and other professional ones can be read both ways, indeed have to be read both ways.

Depending on how the question is put, majorities can be found favouring either devolution or integration; and many respondents in Northern Ireland can be found favouring both. This is not as crazy as it sounds, nor does it necessarily reflect on the surveys, but simply that many people believe that almost anything is better than the present. The actual framework of government, alas, may not be as important to them as to politicians and academics: they identify any proposals for change with hopes for peace.

However, may I raise a constitutional point? Opponents of devolution, like David Morrison, W. S. Moore, Enoch Powell and *The Observer*, seem to assume that continued direct rule leading to integration is the best guarantee against the emergence of common institutions with the Republic of Ireland. Since the recent Dublin talks between the two governments is this necessarily true?

The proposition could be turned on its head. If the rest of the United Kingdom (which is somewhat bigger than Northern Ireland) *thinks that it has an interest in* developing and formalizing, over time, common interests and affinities with the Republic of Ireland, quite irrespective of nice weightings of public opinion in the North, might not devolution then become the best guarantee of maintaining the Ulster tradition, either by *resisting these tendencies or by* seeing that Northern Ireland's special interests are properly represented and protected?

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD CRICK,
Birkbeck College,
Malet Street, WC1.

Priorities in education

From the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority

Sir, You state in your editorial (January 19) that the Inner London Education Authority is "sheltered from a direct relationship with the electorate". This is not so. On May 7 this year 35 of the 48 seats on the authority will be up for election. If the electorate of inner London do not wish to see educational standards maintained they will be able to say so through the ballot box.

I believe people do want to see *standards upheld and will put the* blame for high rate rises at the door of Government which has cut our rate support grant virtually to nil.

Yours faithfully,
ASHLEY BRAMALL,
County Hall, SE1.
January 19.

English Leyland?

From Mr R. H. Hickling

Sir, In a report of today (January 14) it is stated that an industrial tribunal found British Leyland guilty of "indirect racial discrimination because it insisted that people applying for labouring jobs filled in application forms in English."

On its face, the decision of the tribunal appears to be kind, as well as lawful, and I would not wish to attack it; but it prompts the question whether we English are destined to see the decline and destruction of our own language in our own country.

That the language will survive in other countries and in other forms I have no doubt: it is probably our best gift to the world, and will survive long after we are gone. But I suggest that it is now time to consider asserting, by yet another Act of Parliament, that while other languages may lawfully be used and taught, for official purposes the national language of England is English.

Or, Sir, is it now unlawful even to suggest this?

Yours truly,
R. H. HICKLING,
38 Stevens Close,
Epsom, Surrey.

From Mr D. J. Woolard

Sir, In view of today's report in *The Times* (January 14), I presume that all safety and warning notices at BL plants will be multilingual to comply with the Health and Safety at Work, etc, Act, since testing job applicants' ability to read and write English is now discriminatory.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN J. WOOLARD,
23 The Middlings, Sevenoaks.

Issues of Lambeth squat

From Mr Stuart Holland, MP for Vauxhall (Labour)

Sir, Mr George Tremlett (January 13) drew attention to my support for the recent occupation of Kilner House, near the Oval, by the London Squatters' Union. He claimed that this support, with that of the Lambeth Trades Council, Labour councillors, the Vauxhall Labour Party, local trade unions and the local teachers' organization would be no surprise to those who had noticed the direction in which the London Labour Party is moving.

Mr Tremlett forgot to add that the occupation also had the support of the local tenants' association on the GLC Kennington Park Estate. The reason is simple enough. Following a long period of consultation with the tenants' association and local groups, Kilner House had been modernized on the understanding that it would be let to those in housing need in the area rather than sold. Written commitments had been made to individuals that they would be transferred to Kilner House, which were summarily broken. So were commitments to improve the Brandon GLC estate, made to its tenants' association, which also were broken last year.

This is against the background of the devastating effect which GLC policy of council home sales has had in an inner city borough such as Lambeth. The outflow of several thousand families each year to outer London, on a transfer and letting basis, has virtually ended. As a result of this, plus the government moratorium on council home building, and the cuts in the housing investment programme, Lambeth's housing problem has been thrown into crisis by Conservative central and local government.

The strength of local feeling against the proposed sale of Kilner House, scheduled for rent rather than sale, has to be seen against the scale of this problem, not only in Lambeth, but in Greater London as a whole, where some 300,000 dwellings are either unfit for human habitation, lack a basic amenity, or need major modernization and repair.

Naturally Mr Tremlett makes no reference to such factors. He concentrates on trivia, innuendo and false claims against those involved in the occupation. Thus he alleges that they were "largely students from abroad so few of whom could speak English that four translators had to be employed to take evidence" during the High Court action brought by the GLC. Hardly so.

Had he visited Kilner House and talked with the some 150 people resident during the occupation he could have heard their views of GLC housing policy in very plain Anglo-Saxon. Far from being largely foreign students, they included a representative range of those skilled in trades and professions, both employed and unemployed.

Mr Tremlett reminds us that "the rule of law must be seen to prevail in this land". He seems to have forgotten that in a democracy such as ours respect for the law implies not only good administration and majority consent, but also respect for the needs of minorities. His council's cynicism in breaking commitments and its unconcern for those in real housing need in London will be properly tested at the polls for the new GLC this May.

Yours sincerely,
STUART HOLLAND,
House of Commons.
January 15.

Competing for the countryside

From the Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council

Sir, In his article Mr Oliver Stanley (January 14) shows how the fate of the country's wildlife depends *on agriculture*. And he is right to draw attention to the importance of financial aspects if farmers are not to be put at a disadvantage in carrying out nature conservation measures. He is especially right to stress the importance of the heritage concept and the deferment of capital taxation.

But he is wrong to imply that conservationists expect that agriculture should therefore not change. Before agricultural changes are implemented in areas of special importance for wildlife we need the opportunity to consider their implications and to comment. It is simply a matter of ensuring that before decisions are made at whatever level in our society, the relevant facts are taken into account.

It is for this reason that the Nature Conservancy Council hope *to see included within the* Wildlife and Countryside Bill, now before Parliament, additional measures requiring consultations on any proposed changes to the sites of special scientific interest which it is the NCC's statutory duty to notify, and a government commitment to the resources for its implementation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
RALPH VERNEY,
Nature Conservancy Council,
19-20 Belgrave Square, SW1.
January 14.

From Mr Humphrey Case

Sir, Conservation of the countryside *is an important topic as its frequent* occurrence in your columns shows. Revision of planning procedures would be a more effective way of achieving it than the taxation relief advocated by the chief taxation adviser to the Country Landowners' Association (feature, January 14). Tax relief may indeed have a supplementary part to play, but its cause is not furthered by insipid rhetoric implying that conservationists wish the countryside to "be fossilized into a pastoral world of *nymphs and shepherds*", or by ill-conceived generalizations that they are "city dwellers". In fact many land-owning funds for which Mr Stanley is advocating relief are securely urban-based.

Yours, etc.
HUMPHREY CASE,
Pitt's Cottage,
187 Thame Road,
Warborough,
Oxford.
January 14.

Medical redundancies

From Mrs P. K. Ashley and Professor L. Michaels

Sir, Some members of the Academic Board of the Institute of Laryngology and Otology have expressed their horror (January 12) that six members of its staff have been made redundant. They are right to protest because the institute, *in company with others*, is in danger of becoming an unintended casualty of the Government's policy on the payment of fees by overseas students.

This year, the institute's grant from London University has been cut by about 20 per cent in real terms, and over a period of three years the total reduction may be as much as 44 per cent. Such drastic cuts make redundancies inevitable. The cuts are severe because a high proportion of *students at the postgraduate medical* institutes happen to come from overseas and the whole of the university grant is reduced by that proportion, regardless of the other purposes besides teaching for which the grant is used.

The Government has recognized the problem and provided some additional money; but it is only for "adjustment" purposes and it does not resolve the difficulties that are becoming increasingly apparent. The only way to do so is to develop a new approach to the funding of all postgraduate medical institutes; and for it to be effective both health and education ministries must be involved.

Yours faithfully,
P. K. ASHLEY, Chairman,
L. MICHAELS, Dean,
The Institute of Laryngology and Otology,
330-332 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
January 13.

From the Reverend Dr Tom Ambrose

Sir, This reader of *The Times* is greatly reassured to know that not even the demi-gods of the university medical schools are immune from the effects of the current recession.

Yours,
T. AMBROSE,
5 Spelvit Lane,
Morpeth,
Northumberland.
January 12.

Full explanation

From Mrs Margaret Mason

Sir, Giovanni Arnolfini looks such a calculating and inflexible young man that he would surely not have hesitated to encourage his wife to bring the libel action suggested by Bernard Levin (January 13) if there had been any hope of a lucrative outcome. But it should be noted that in his Dresden Triptych, painted in 1437, three years later, Van Eyck showed St Catherine, whose virginity surely could never be in question, in an identical pose, with her skirt bunched up and looking similarly pregnant.

We can only assume that at the time this was a completely acceptable fashion both for spinsters and married ladies, free from the quite reasonable implications that Bernard Levin suggests.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET V. MASON,
Woodman's Cottage,
Park Road,
Banstead,
Surrey.
January 13.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duchess of Kent will visit Gower Furniture Ltd and the Piece Hall in Halifax and later, as chancellor, will visit Leeds University on February 10.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, will be held at St Mary Abbots, Kensington, on Tuesday, February 10, at noon. No tickets are required.

Birthdays today

Lord Aylestone, 76; the Hon Sir Henry Fisher, 63; Sir James Hanson, 59; Mr Royalton Kisch, 62; Commandant Vonla McBride, 60; Mr R. P. J. Marshall, 75; Sir Theodore Tasker, 97; Sir Roy Welensky, 74.

Today's engagements

Princess Alexandra, as vice-president of British Red Cross Society, attends council meeting, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, Belgravia, 11.25.

Exhibitions: Henri Carpreau, Drain Gallery, 7 Porchester Place, 10 to 5; seven Israeli artists, Ben Uri gallery, 21 Dean Street, 10 to 5; Donald McCullin photographs, Victoria and Albert Museum, 10 to 5.50; "The new spirit in painting", Royal Academy, 10 to 6.

Talks: "Herodotus on Egyptian belief", 11.30, and "Hathor and Sekhmet", 1.15, both by George Hart, British Museum; "A time and a place: Assisi, 1320", by Audrey Tyndall, National Gallery, 1; "Population and resources", by Eric McGraw, South Place Ethical Society, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, 7; "Imperial and royal portraits in Byzantium and the medieval West", by Geoffrey House, National Portrait Gallery, 1; "A gardener in retirement", by Fred Brean, Fullwell Cross Library, Barkingside, Ilford, 8; "The black economy as a Soviet way of life", by Mrs Irina Elkonian-Johansson (in Russian), The Pushkin Club, 46 Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill Gate, 7.30; "Fernand Leger", by Jennifer Stern, Tate Gallery, 1; "Reality and fiction", by Beryl Bainbridge, Polytechnic of North London, 2.

Lunchtime music: Fairfield Quartet, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, 1.05; David Green, piano, Bishopsgate Hall, 1.05; BBC Concert Orchestra, conductor Marcus Dods, Guildhall, 12.15; Margaret Phillips, organ, St Lawrence Jewry, 1.

Memorial service: Canon Norman Motley, St Michael's, Cornhill, noon.

Reception

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was host at a reception held at 10 Downing Street yesterday evening to mark the International Year of Disabled People, 1981.

Luncheons

HM Government
Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon given in honour of the Australian Opposition Leader, Mr William Hayden, at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday. The guests included the High Commissioner for Australia.

HM Government
Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon given in honour of the Malaysian Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Encik Sanusi bin Junid, at Admiralty House yesterday. The High Commissioner for Malaysia was among the guests.

Dinner

Anglo-American Sporting Club
The Anglo-American Sporting Club held a boxing dinner evening at the Hilton hotel last night. Mr Brian Jacks was the guest of honour. Mr Tony Garrett was in the chair and the other speakers were Mr Rex Gutteridge, Mr J. C. Fields and Mr Kenneth Wolstenholme, secretary of the club.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
The Dean of St Paul's was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Royal Over-Seas League held at Over-Seas House, St James's last night. E. Cresswell presided.

Lord Mayor of London

The following are some of the Lord Mayor's engagements for the rest of this week:

Today: Receives Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham, Mansion House, 4; attends exhibition and reception to celebrate fiftieth anniversary of English National Opera, visitors' gallery, Stock Exchange, 5.30.

Thursday: Attends freedom ceremonies for Sir Maxwell Joseph and Mr Robert Heron, Guildhall, 12.15.

Friday: Receives agents-general of Canada, Mansion House, 11.30.

Award scheme ends

The Martin Luther King Memorial Fund, a literary award scheme, was compulsorily wound up in the High Court in London yesterday on a petition by the Customs and Excise for £5,578 value-added tax.

Catholic newspapers differ over 'Times' investigation

Opus Dei's ways 'are medieval'

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The methods of physical mortification used by members of Opus Dei "belong to the Middle Ages and must be stopped at once", The Universe, the Roman Catholic newspaper, says in a leading article in its latest edition.

Commenting on a number of articles in various newspapers last week, the first of which appeared in The Times, The Universe summarized some of the criticisms of Opus Dei together with points made in its defence, and went on: "Wherein lies the truth of the matter? We do not know.

"For although Opus Dei protests that it is not secretive, those of its potential recruits who refuse to join—membership is by invitation only—are often asked not to inform even their close relatives. Such information as does exist, therefore, comes not from the ordinary membership but from official sources within the organization.

"It is almost as though the organization wishes to foster a quasimonastic air of elitism much more enticing to potential members by an air of mystery. That kind of air is unhealthy.

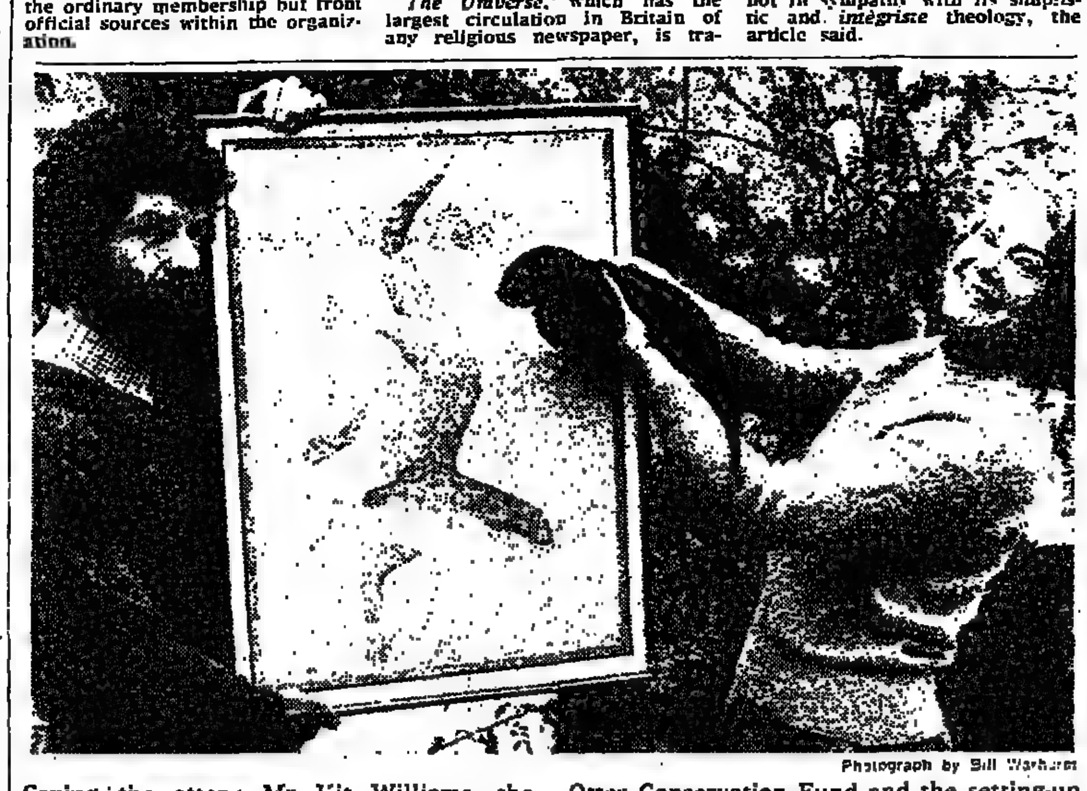
"There is nothing wrong with the stated aim of having an apostolate among the better educated, professional classes. But that apostolate should be open and public. For it is frequently true that those who appear to be hiding something have something to hide."

The article admits that fasting and abstinence can be good for the soul, but "the methods which Opus Dei admits that some of its members use" are not. Many of the articles published about Opus Dei last week referred to a small whip and a spiked chain which are used as instruments of mortification by members.

The Universe, which has the largest circulation in Britain of any religious newspaper, is traditionally conservative in its comments on Roman Catholic affairs. The more liberal Catholic Herald made no editorial comment on the matter in its last edition, but described aspects of the affair in a news report which emphasized Opus Dei's answers to some of the criticisms levelled at it.

The Tablet commented in its "Notebook" that The Times's original article read like an extract from the Protestant Alliance Magazine of 50 years ago, and asked, "What has happened to the religious sensibility of The Times?"

It said that "whatever the aberrations and excesses of some of its members", there could be no quarrel with the basic aims of Opus Dei, which The Times had failed to set out adequately. While the charitable works of Opus Dei were admirable, The Tablet was not in sympathy with its simplistic and integriste theology, the article said.



Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Saving the otter: Mr Kit Williams, the artist and author, with his painting which is to be auctioned on behalf of the Wild Otter Conservation Fund and the setting-up of a reserve for the animals. With him is Mrs Daphne Neville and the fund's otter.

OBITUARY

LIEUT-GEN SIR THOMAS HUTTON

Service during the campaign in Burma

Lieutenant - General Sir Thomas Hutton, KCIE, CB, MC, who died on January 17, at the age of 90, was Chief of the General Staff in India for a time in the Second World War, and was GOC Burma at the time of the Japanese invasion in 1941.

Hutton was a man of strong character and decided views and, having the courage of his convictions, he stuck to them even when they were unpalatable to his superiors, as they sometimes were. He was devoted to his profession and was a thoroughly competent staff officer. Indeed his talents and personality lay more in the direction of staff work than command, and it was his misfortune that the only command he held in the field in the 1939-45 war was one in which he was faced with impossible odds.

Thomas Jacomb Hutton was born on March 27, 1890, the eldest son of W. H. Hutton of Clevedon. He was educated at Rossall and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from which he was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1909. In the 1914-18 War he served in France and Belgium with his regiment and on the staff. He was wounded thrice, was four times mentioned in dispatches, was awarded the Military Cross and Bar, the Legion of Honour, the French and Italian War Crosses, and a brevet majority.

In 1919 he was appointed assistant military secretary to General Sir George Milne, later Field-Marshal Lord Milne, who was then Commander-in-Chief, Salonika and Black Sea. A close friendship between them began which had a marked influence on Hutton's career. After passing through the Staff College he served twice again on Milne's staff, on the headquarters of the Eastern Command and as his military assistant when Milne was CIGS.

On promotion to colonel he was for three years on the general staff in the War Office, and was then GSO 1st grade of the 1st Division at Aldershot and in Palestine. His service between the wars was thus almost entirely on the staff. In 1938 he was promoted to major-general and given command of the Baluchistan District, then in process of reorganization as the Western Independent District.

In 1940 he was brought in to Army Headquarters at Delhi as deputy chief of staff to Sir Claude Auchinleck, and in the following year he became Chief of Staff. Six months later, in December 1941, Sir Archibald Wavell, who had relieved Auchinleck as Commander-in-Chief India, appointed him GOC Burma. The Japanese had just begun their attack, had seized the airfield at Victoria Point, and were about to advance in strength from Thailand. His instructions were to keep open the line of communications to China, to fight a delaying action and to gain time for the arrival of reinforcements, and in particular, to defend Rangoon, which was the only port of entry at which they could be landed.

His assignment was a hopeless one from the start. Although the British had been in Burma for over a hundred years, little attention had been paid to strategic defence, and after the outbreak of the Second World War, owing to the demands of other theatres it had been impossible to provide adequate forces to ensure the security of the country. There were fewer than two divisions on the spot, and these were untrained in jungle fighting, incompletely equipped and lacking in suitable transport. They were pitted against superior and well equipped veteran forces of jungle-trained troops, and against a vastly preponderant air power. Hutton was faced with the task of making bricks without straw. He found himself in fact in the infrequent position of a British general at the start of a war called upon to carry out a task impossible with the means provided.

The Japanese made first for Moulmein, which fell after a short fight, and Hutton's troops, threatened with encirclement, carried out withdrawals in succession to the Rivers Salween, Bilin and Sittang, the only action of any severity being fought on the Bilin. At the Sittang the 17th Division suffered a disaster, and was practically destroyed when the divisional commander, believing that most of his troops had crossed to the western bank, and fearing that the Japanese were about to capture the only bridge, gave authority for it to be blown up. Two of his three brigades were thus cut off and lost.

In this situation it was obvious that, not only were the days of Rangoon numbered, but that the escape route to the north would soon be blocked. Hutton reported in this sense to Wavell, gave orders for the evacuation of Rangoon and turned back ships bringing reinforcements for India, since their arrival so late could only lead to the loss of valuable men and stores.

Wavell, who was at the time 2,000 miles away in Java and out of touch with the realities of the situation, considered Hutton's reports to be unduly pessimistic. The Viceroy, the Marquess of Linlithgow, took the same view and cabled London saying that the troops were "not fighting with proper relish, due in great part to lack of drive and inspiration from the top".

This led to Hutton's supersession and replacement by General Alexander. Alexander was, at first, not prepared to admit defeat, and countermanded the orders for the evacuation of Rangoon. But, 30 hours later, he realized that Hutton's assessment of the situation was correct, and began his retreat northwards. The 30 hours delay in the issue of the orders to withdraw might wa[...] have resulted in the loss of th[...] greater part of the army, bu[...] as often occurs in war, th[...] enemy committed a serio[...] error of judgment. Th[...] Japanese Commander, stuc[...] rigidly to his orders to b[...] pass Rangoon and attack it fro[...] the westward, thus failing to c[...] off the escape of our troop[...] which he could easily hav[...] done. When asked to comme[...] on this years afterwards, H[...] ton remarked, "Alex never h[...] a greater stroke of luck in h[...] life. I am glad. He is a frien[...] of mine."

Although suffering from th[...] tremendous strain he had bor[...] throughout the three mont[...] campaign, as well as from t[...] effects of an air crash in whi[...] his pilot was killed and he hi[...] self severely bruised a[...] shaken, Hutton remained fo[...] time as chief of staff[...] Alexander. When the retre[...] was well under way, he was [...] called to India. He was ne[...] again given an active comma[...] But, when the official histo[...] was published seventeen ye[...] later, the verdict was given[...] his favour and his actions a[...] decisions at the time were he[...] to have been justified. Althou[...] he failed in the task he w[...] given, it can at least be claim[...] that he played a major rol[...] saving the army in Burma fr[...] annihilation.

Hutton remained in India [...] the rest of the war and [...] valuable work first as secreta[...] of the War Resources and [...] construction Committees of [...] Council of India and then, aft[...] his retirement from the Ar[...] in 1944, as Officiating Secret[...] of the Viceroy's Execut[...] Council and of the Planni[...] and Development Departme[...] On his return to England [...] 1946, he was for three year[...] regional officer for health [...] vices at the Ministry of Heal[...] He was then appointed gene[...] manager of the United Kingd[...] section of the Anglo-Americ[...] Council on Productivity whi[...] was later reconstituted as t[...] British Productivity Coun[...] and in 1957 he became chairm[...] of the Organization [...] Methods Training Council. [...] these capacities he made a c[...] siderable contribution to bui[...] ing up the machinery for [...] free exchange of knowled[...] which assisted British indus[...] to improve its output.

He was created K.C.I.E. [...] 1944. He was a Colonel Co[...] mandant R.A. from 1942 [...] 1952.

He married in 1921 Isab[...] daughter of James Emslie [...] Edinburgh, Deputy Keeper [...] the Privy Seal of Scotland. S[...] was a distinguished consult[...] psychiatrist who received ma[...] decorations from the Frenc[...] Serbs and Russians for her w[...] standing services in the Fi[...] World War, and was appoint[...] C.B.E. for her work as Direct[...] of Indian Red Cross Welfare [...] the Second World War. S[...] died in 1960. There were [...] children of the marriage.

Countryside Commission wants to extend system of notifying land use changes

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Countryside Commission is seeking to extend the system whereby farmers are required to give advance notification of proposed changes in land use when seeking government grants.

At present the notification arrangement applies only to the 10 national parks in England and Wales. In a policy statement published yesterday the commission proposes that it should be extended to all designated areas of outstanding natural beauty, which account for more than one tenth of the total land area of the two countries.

Mr Derek Barber, the newly appointed chairman of the commission, said its members felt that formal planning controls on agricultural development would not work. They hoped the notification procedure would delay ploughing, drainage and afforestation schemes to allow time for agreements to be reached with the farmers concerned.

The statement proposes that all areas of outstanding natural beauty should be retained, and that designation of a further six should be completed.

Those are the High Weald in Sussex and Kent, the Tamar and Tavy valleys and the Camel estuary in Cornwall, Carnborne Chase and the West Wiltshire Downs, and the Berwyn mountains and the Clwydian range in Wales.

Designation of a further six areas, where the procedure has not yet started, is to be reviewed.

The policy statement suggests that, because designated areas frequently cross county and district council boundaries, representative advisory committees should be established for each area. They should publish statements of intent clearly describing the particular landscape qualities which designation is intended to conserve, and setting out policies for recreational use and the control of development.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: a policy statement, CCP 141 (Countryside Commission, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 3RA).

MR EDWARD BACON

Mr Edward Bacon, FSA, who was for more than 30 years Archaeology Editor of The Illustrated London News, died at his home in Suffolk on January 13.

Born in Normanby, Cleveland, on July 6, 1906, the son of a schoolmaster, Bacon was educated at St Bees and at Keble, Oxford, where he read classics and English. After initially following in his father's footsteps as a teacher Bacon worked for a while in industry, developing at the same time his undoubted skill with his pen. He wrote three humorous novels during the 1930s which were published under the pseudonym of Francis Boon. Being deaf in one ear he was unable to join the fighting services during the war, which was a great disappointment to him, but served as an assistant adjutant in the Home Guard in Yorkshire, where he was then living.

He joined The Illustrated London News in 1944 as what was then known as a "liner", meaning that his function was to write captions, short paragraphs to articles and other odd writing jobs. His interest in archaeology was encouraged by Sir Bruce Ingram, the paper's editor who was himself an enthusiast in the subject, and it was not long before Bacon was given full responsibility for the archaeology pages, which have always been a strong feature of the publication. Under Bacon's guidance the practice of publishing reports from archaeologists in the field was further developed, and he was able to persuade many leading archaeologists, including Sir Mortimer Wheeler, Sir Leonard Woolley, Professor Dorothy Garrod, Professor Sir Max Mallowan, Mr James Mellaart, Dr J. Papadimitriou and many others to write early accounts of their discoveries in the pages of the ILN.

While working so closely with the professionals Bacon greatly developed his own knowledge and understanding of archaeology, and in his later years published a number of books on the subject, including Digging for History, Archaeological Discoveries of the 1960s, Atlantis (with A. E. Galanopoulos) and, in 1976, The Great Archaeologists, which was a selection of some of the reports on archaeology published in the ILN since 1842. Bacon was also editor of two other archaeological books, Vanished Civilizations and Ancient Lands. He retired from the ILN in 1978, and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in that year.

As a man Bacon had nothing of the fustiness that is sometimes popularly associated with his subject. He had a lively mind and a ready wit, was an entertaining conversationalist and a lovable colleague.

He married, first, in 1942, Mary Jacques, and secondly, in 1967, Doris Katie Saville. There were two daughters of the first marriage.

MR FRANK SHAW

Mr Frank Shaw, the l[...] remaining survivor of those [...] board the submarine H[...] Thetis, which sank in J[...] 1939, with the loss of 99 li[...] while on acceptance trials [...] Liverpool Bay, died on Janua[...] 14. He was 73.

At the time of the trage[...] he was an engineer fitter [...] ployed by Cammell Laird, w[...] had built the submarine at th[...] Birkenhead yard on the Mers[...] After it failed to surface af[...] a dive only four men, two na[...] officers, a naval stoker a[...] Shaw, escaped through [...] Davis hatch.

He regularly attended [...] annual memorial service h[...] on the Isle of Anglesey whe[...] the bodies were recovered a[...] buried after the submarine h[...] been raised and beached. It w[...] refitted and brought back i[...] service as HMS Thunderbo[...] and was sunk by enemy acti[...] in the Mediterranean in 19[...]

REAR-ADMIRAL O. W. PHILLIPS

Rear-Admiral Owen Willi[...] Phillips, CBE, died on Janua[...] 13 at the age of 89.

The son of Edward Philli[...] he was educated at the Roy[...] Naval Colleges Osborne a[...] Dartmouth and at the Roy[...] Naval Engineering College. [...] joined the Navy in 1904 a[...] saw service in the First Wor[...] War in HMS Canopus and [...] the submarines K4, K9, F2 a[...] H22, the latter two of whi[...] he commanded. In the Secon[...] World War he was on the staf[...] of the Commanders-in-Chi[...] Eastern Fleet, Ceylon, a[...] Western Approaches.

He married in 1917, Mab[...] Charlton, second daughter [...] Alfred Brown. They had a so[...] and two daughters.

Mr Cecil Herbert Spence Blatch, CBE, a member of the council of the Law Society from 1954 to 1970 and president of the Union Internationale des Avocats, 1967-69, died in hospital in Lymington on January 12.

Correction

Mr Frith Banbury writes to say that it was not he but the late Firth Shephard who took over the Gaiety Theatre in 1935, mentioned in the obituary of the late Fred Emney.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H. G. S. A. Kirby and the Hon Antonia Theilusson
The engagement is announced between Hugo Giles Stephen Astley, eldest son of Mr Giles Kirby, of The Manor House, South Harting, Petersfield, Hampshire, and Mrs Angela Kirby, of 17 Wetherby Gardens, London, SW5, and Antonia, second daughter of Lord and Lady Rendlesham, of 100b Eaton Square, London SW1.

Captain J. C. Gordon-Finlayson and Miss G. E. Le Hardy
The engagement is announced between John Gordon-Finlayson, The Queen's Own Hussars, younger son of Major-General and Mrs R. Gordon-Finlayson, of South Collingham Manor, Newark, and Gillian, younger daughter of Wing Commander A. W. G. Le Hardy, OBE, NATO, Brussels, and of Mrs J. I. Le Hardy, of Winkfield, Windsor.

Mr W. R. Morris and Miss C. E. Aaron
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant William Morris, The Queen's Regiment, only son of Major and Mrs G. M. Morris of Wadhurst, Sussex, and Katie, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Aaron, of Hardwick, Northamptonshire.

Mr R. J. Philpot and Miss E. N. Toller
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs John K. Philpot, of Putney, London, and Susan, younger daughter of the late Mr Paul A. Toller and Mrs Ivor Kramer, and stepdaughter of Professor I. R. H. Kramer, of Moor Park, Hertfordshire.

Mr C. Rendel and Miss P. M. Porter
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mrs M. Rendel, of Holland Park, London, and Mr P. Rendel, of Holme Farm, Crowborough, and Patricia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs K. R. Porter, of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.

Mr A. R. Wilson and Miss E. J. Swinburn
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr R. G. Wilson, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, and Mrs S. Wilson, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Dr and Mrs R. T. Swinburn, of Wylam, Northumberland.

Marriages

Mr M. R. F. Gunningham and the Hon Mary Roche
The marriage took place quietly in London on Saturday, January 17, between Mr Michael Robert Fearon Gunningham and the Hon Mary Cynthia Burke Roche.

Mr C. Blackett-Ord and Miss H. G. Nash
The marriage between Mr Charles Blackett-Ord and Miss Harriet Nash took place at St Paul's Church, Kandy, Sri Lanka, on January 3.

Mr N. D. L. Elliot and Miss V. J. Eaton
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 17, 1981, at St Mary's, Nether Alderley, Cheshire, between Mr Nicholas David Luscombe Elliot and Miss Victoria Jane Eaton. Canon Wilfrid Garlick officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, Mr Timothy Eaton, was attended by Samantha Taylor, Liberty Bromley-Davenport, Sophie Rayner and Sophie Elliot. Mr Jonathan Eaton, the bride's brother, was best man.

Middle East tour by Sir Ian Gilmour

Sir Ian Gilmour, the principle Foreign Office spokesman in the Commons, will visit Jordan from February 1 to 4, Syria from February 4 to 6, and Kuwait from February 6 to 8. He will have talks with senior government ministers on the Arab-Israeli conflict, Gulf security, the Iran-Iraq war and Afghanistan.

Interwar buildings listed for merit

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday announced that he had listed 36 buildings put up between the wars because of historic merit. Waterloo Bridge has also been listed. The London buildings included the Savoy Hotel and the Dorchester hotel, Broadcasting House, Barker's of Kensington and the British Airways building in Victoria.

Record growth in private health cover

By a Staff Reporter

More than 15,000 people a week took out private health insurance last year, producing a record rise in the number of people covered, according to figures published yesterday by Lee Donaldson Associates, who advise the Department of Health on developments in private health insurance.

During 1980 an extra 812,000 people joined the three main provident associations, taking the total number of subscribers to 1,647,000. That represents 3,577,000 people insured, or about one in fifteen of the population. The rate of growth accelerated throughout last year to 27.5 per cent by the year's end, the highest recorded and an increase of nearly 50 per cent in the numbers covered in the two years since December, 1978.

If that rate of growth continued, it was stated, more than 20 per cent of the population would be covered by 1985.

London University vice-chancellorship

The senate in consultation with the court has established a committee to consider and make recommendations on the appointment of a vice-chancellor to serve from September 1, 1981, after the completion of Lord Annan's third year of office.

Under the new statutes of the university, which have been approved by the Queen in council, the vice-chancellor will be the academic and administrative head of the university and will normally be chosen from among the members of the university. The vice-chancellor will be appointed for a period of between two and four years and will be eligible for reappointment for one further period not exceeding four years.

Members of the university may wish to suggest names for consideration for the vice-chancellorship and are invited to write in confidence to the secretary to the committee, Mr P. Taylor, Clerk of the Senate, London University, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU, not later than Friday, January 30, 1981. Envelopes should be marked "Personal".

Scotland and England win bridge round

By Our Bridge Correspondent

Scotland and England came through the first round in the Home Countries International Bridge Series for the Camrose Cup at Llangollen, where Wales entertained Scotland, and at Larne, where Northern Ireland were at home to England.

In a closely contested match Scotland beat Wales by 16 to 14, the scores in the individual matches being 7—5, 9—3 and 3—9.

England made an impressive start to its defence of the trophy when winning the first two matches against Northern Ireland by 11—1 and 12—0, but fell away in the third match when Northern Ireland, playing extremely well, achieved an 11 to 1 victory.

Standings
England 24, Scotland 19, Wales 17, Northern Ireland 12.

The teams were:
England: A. R. Forrester and R. Smolski; J. D. R. Collings, and G. N. Breskal; M. R. Pomfrey and D. F. Huggett (non-playing captain, A. P. Sowter).
Scotland: B. J. Shenkin and V. Goldbeck; Dr G. Haase and G. Cuthbertson; W. Mitchell and Dr J. K. Bennett (non-playing captain, C. D. Bowman).
Wales: J. Salisbury and R. G. Upton; A. Pierce and A. T. Casey; M. Hirst and D. McAndrew (non-playing captain, C. C. Smith).
Northern Ireland: M. Rosenberg and Roy Andreson; K. Singleton and N. Percival-Price; G. Mackenzie and Mrs M. Johnston (non-playing captain, D. Deery).

Memorial services

Sir Mark Turner
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Mark Turner was held on Friday, January 16, at St Michael's Parish Church, Highgate, London. The service was conducted by the vicar of the parish, the Rev John Fielding. The lesson was read by Prebendary H. Edwards and an address was given by Lord Charteris of Amisfield. Among those present were:

Lady Turner (widow), Mr and Mrs C. Turner, Mr and Mrs Roger Turner and Mr Richard Turner (sons and daughters-in-law), Sir and Mrs [illegible] [illegible]

Mr J. Laycock and Flora Laycock
A service of thanksgiving for the lives of Mr Joe Laycock and Flora Laycock was held yesterday at Chelsea Old Church. The Rev C. E. Leighton Thomson officiated and Mr Ben Laycock, Mr Dick Temple, Lady Laycock and Miss Celia Johnson also took part in the service. Others present included: [illegible]

25 years ago

From The Times of Thursday, January 19, 1956

People's army formed

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, Jan 18.—The east German Volkskammer today adopted laws for the establishment of a national people's army and a defence ministry and for the introduction of new uniforms. The defence minister was not named, but Herr Willi Stoph, who introduced the laws in the chamber wearing the uniform of a three-star general, is considered the most likely candidate. The laws did not specify whether the army would embrace only the present barracked police force, thought to number more than 100,000 men, or whether it would also include the territorial fighting groups said to consist of between 100,000 and 150,000 part-time soldiers. Herr Stoph made it clear that compulsory service was not envisaged for the time-being because the size of the force would be limited to purely defensive tasks. These long-expected measures were placed before the chamber and the public in an extraordinary hurry. The cry for national armed forces dates back to the ratification of the Paris agreements in Bonn, and in fact east German leaders have been referring to the barracked police for months by this term.

University news

Cambridge
Election
QUEENS' COLLEGE: Official fellowship and lectureship in history: P. A. Towle, MA, PhD (Lond), teaching fellow in defence studies.

Wales
SWANSEA
Dr D. F. Hills, senior lecturer in English at Queen's University, Belfast, has been appointed to the chair of English language and literature and headship of the department from the beginning of the 1981-82 academic year.

Science report

Nutrition: Lead poison and milk

By the Staff of Nature

A study reported from the University of Wisconsin, in the United States, promises to shed some new light on a long-standing argument over the efficacy of milk in protecting against lead poisoning.

Dr P. J. Bushnell and Dr H. F. DeLuca, well known for his work on vitamin D, have found that while many of the ingredients of milk would be expected to have a protective effect, its sugar lactose, on the other hand, can enhance the absorption of lead into the tissues of the body.

Lead has been known as a poison for centuries, causing outbreaks of the severe abdominal pain known as lead colic, and in the worst cases affecting the brain and the nervous system. Although epidemics of the sort experienced in the Middle Ages are now rare, lead poisoning still attracts heated discussion.

One source of discussion concerns the effects of milk; some experimental work has suggested that milk can protect the mammalian body against the poisonous effects of lead, whereas other work indicates that milk enhances those effects.

Dr Bushnell and Dr DeLuca thought that the answer might lie in the chemical complexity of milk. It contains some ingredients, such as calcium, phosphorus and protein, that could be expected to reduce the retention of lead by the body. But it also contains the sugar lactose, which is well known for its ability to enhance the uptake of essential trace metals such as iron, manganese, zinc and cobalt into body tissues. They decided to investigate whether it could also enhance the uptake of lead.

They therefore fed young rats with lead, radioactively labelled so that they could trace its fate in the tissues, with or without lactose. The next day they examined how much of the lead had reached the bone, kidney, liver and blood. The result was that the tissues absorbed considerably more of the lead when lactose was given than when lead was given alone.

The enhancing effect was particular to lactose, for the sugars, glucose, glactose and maltos[e] were also tested and had no suc[h] effect. Dr Bushnell and D[r] DeLuca have therefore provide[d] support for earlier results show[-] ing that milk diets increase th[e] retention of lead in the body.

They can also suggest an ex[-] planation for the apparently con[-] flicting influences of milk on lea[d] poisoning. Milk contains certai[n] ingredients that are considere[d] likely to afford protection again[st] a subsequent dose of lead becaus[e] they can reduce the amount o[f] that lead retained in the tissue[s].

But any lead present when th[e] milk is consumed is likely to b[e] absorbed the more readily be[-] cause of the action of lactose. So it seems that milk has two con[-] flicting influences which have resulted, not surprisingly, in some confusing experimental results.

Source: Science, January 2, 1981 (vol 211, page 61).

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

J. K. Galbraith on the faults of monetarism, page 19

Difficult choices for the coal board, page 19

- **Stock markets**
  FT Ind 453.6, up 1.7
  FT Gilts 68.53, up 0.48
- **Sterling**
  $2.4070, up 1.40 cent
  Index 80.1, up 0.1
- **Dollar**
  Index 86.9, down 0.4
  DM 2.0075, up 25 pts
- **Gold**
  $567.5, up $6
- **Money**
  3 mth sterling 14⅛-14⅝
  3 mth Euro $ 18⅛-19⅛
  6 mth Euro $ 17⅛-17⅞

IN BRIEF

550 jobs go in closure of Pilkington subsidiary

The Pilkington glassmaking group is to close its Chance Brothers subsidiary, at Smethwick in the West Midlands, with the loss of 550 jobs. The move follows the decision by the Philips Electrical group, its biggest customer to transfer its business elsewhere.

Chance Brothers manufactures lighting tubes which were sold to three electrical companies, Thorn, Sylvania and Philips.

In recent years Chance Brothers has suffered from the lack of tied outlets to market its own lighting, the strength of the pound and the price-cutting tactics of European competitors.

The company was already in the middle of a big cost-cutting *exercise, started in April last* year. At that time it was announced that the 650-strong workforce would have to be cut in two stages by 200.

Two further Chance companies, Chance Propper, with 120 employees, and Chance Brothers, Malvern, with 40 employees, are not affected.

Tourism VAT plea

Sir Henry Marking, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, *yesterday called* on the Government "to end the savage form of discrimination" of charging VAT on repairs and maintenance to historic buildings. The authority is also seeking a preferential VAT rate for tourist services.

Regan approval

The American Senate's finance committee has approved the nomination of Mr Donald Regan, the chairman of Merrill Lynch, as secretary of the American Treasury. The appointment will be confirmed by the full Senate today.

Foundry group sale

Birmid Qualcast, the Midlands foundry group, is on the point of selling Trucast, its steel investment castings subsidiary. The buyer is Ross & Catherall, a private company making special steels near Sheffield, and one of Trucast's suppliers.

Port investment

The Government is to raise the threshold above which port investment projects must be authorized by the Secretary of State for Transport from £1m to £3m.

Post Office contract

Taylor Woodrow Construction has won a £13.8m contract from the Post Office to design and build a district letter office and associated works at Nine Elms in south-west London.

Concrete output down

Production of ready-mixed concrete fell by 7.8 per cent to 21,070,000 cubic metres in 1980, according to figures published yesterday by the British Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 2.30 points down to 970.99. The $-SDR was 1.26994. The £ was 0.525681.

Profits prediction by Post Office despite £46m loss in first half

By Bill Johnstone

The Post Office corporation made a loss of £46m in the first half of this financial year, compared with a profit of £49m in the first six months of last year, but it said that it expected to make a profit over the year as a whole.

In the first half, Posts lost £30m and Telecommunications lost £19m but the National Girobank turned in a profit of £3m.

The Posts and Giro division denied that the losses would mean an early rise in post charges in the new financial year, despite a confirmation of predictions that it would not be able to realize its target of a 2 per cent increase on its present revenue, now estimated to be about £2,000m.

Last year the division met its revenue target making a profit of £34.1m on income of £1,708m.

If the trend in telecommunications continues it too will be wide of its financial target of 5 per cent of its assets which now stand at about £16,000m, taking inflation into account.

The drop in profit for this division, soon to become the independent British Telecom, is severe, particularly as it is traditionally one of the more profitable areas.

Despite the downturn which it attributed to the recession, the computer personnel strike in the summer of 1979 and to a general increase in costs, it says that it has still managed growth of 6.3 per cent.

The corporation expected to lose business after its November tariff increase, resulting in 91,000 fewer new exchange lines, 35 million fewer trunk calls and 142 million fewer local calls than it would have achieved had there been no increase.

Both sides of the Post Office, however, expect an upturn in their fortunes in the second half.

Posts and Giro's fall in profits caused the corporation to embark on a programme of cost cutting. Although the Posts division's capital expenditure is modest compared with that of British Telecom's £1,500m a year, it is still a significant amount.

In a recent letter to *The Times*, Mr Ron Dearing, chairman of Posts and Giro, said: "Our overall capital expenditure of £76m this year will be more than the amount we originally planned, and we are financing the excess by disposing of buildings and sites for which we have no further use."

Increased efficiency and the rise in postal charges from January 26 making the first class letter rate 14p and the second class rate 11.5p is expected to bring Posts into profit.

At Christmas the Post Office used 14,000 fewer casual workers than it had used the previous year to move the same amount of mail. The postal side employs 180,000 staff whose wages account for 80 per cent of its costs, so savings in man hours are significant.

But British Telecom will undoubtedly have to consider another early rise in prices if it is to sustain its investment programme. This year's allocation has already been made but next year's could be cut back unless an increase is made to offset the cost.

If it is to achieve its target of 5 per cent on assets, it will have to transform its £19m loss into a profit of £300m.

Davy to fight Enserch bid in courts

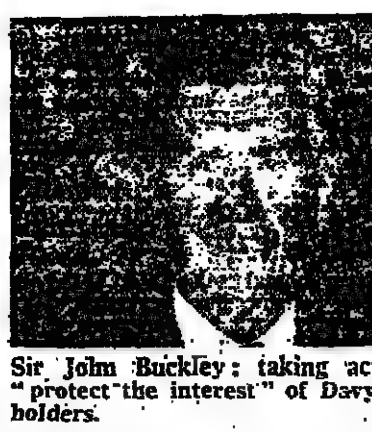
By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

Davy Corporation, Britain's largest process plant manufacturer, is to carry its fight against a £143m takeover bid from the United States Enserch Corp into the American courts.

In a carefully-worded statement last night Davy's board, headed by Sir John Buckley, said it considered such action necessary "to protect its shareholders' interests".

Enserch, a Texas-based utility and oil exploration company, made an offer in common shares and loan stock for Davy last month. Prior to the abolition of exchange controls in Britain at the end of 1979, foreign companies bidding for British ones would have had to pay in cash.

A sudden rise in the share price of Davy *ahead of the bid led—at Davy's request—to a Stock Exchange inquiry into market dealings. This is still continuing, but meanwhile Davy's share price has fallen back to 152p, compared to the 190p value put* on the shares at the time Enserch announced its bid.



Sir John Buckley: taking action to "protect the interest" of Davy shareholders.

Davy says it is charging Enserch in the Federal District Court of Columbia with violations of the United States federal securities laws in connexion with the offer.

Davy also alleges that previous press statements by Enserch and "resultant stock market activity in Britain and the United States have unlawfully and falsely preconditioned the market for Enserch's offer".

Moreover, Davy claims that proposed offer documents filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission by Enserch contain "mis-statements and omissions concerning Enserch's business and financial condition".

In the United States such claims are not unusual and often are followed by counter-claims in what invariably turns out to be a lengthy process of litigation in most takeover bids.

In Britain, however, where takeovers are partly governed by self-regulation, Davy's action before the American courts is breaking new grounds in the defence of a bid from a foreign company, although there was some legal skirmishing in the United States courts when the American insurance broker, Marsh & McLennan, bid for the British C. T. Bowring group last year.

Financial Editor, page 19

Ford wins majority vote for 9.5pc rise

By R. W. Shakespeare

More than 80 per cent of Ford car workers in plants around the country have voted to accept the management's 9.5 per cent pay offer in spite of its rejection by national negotiators and recommendations by shop stewards that it should be turned down.

The last important hurdle before getting the pay deal accepted nationally was crossed yesterday when body and assembly plant workers at Halewood on Merseyside, met to vote at the South Liverpool Football Club ground.

Only about 2,000 of the 10,000 workers eligible to vote turned up for the meeting, but the show of hands was a convincing one in favour of acceptance.

The Halewood plant is now divided on the pay issue. On Saturday, men in the transmissions workshops turned the deal down by a three to one majority.

However, Ford now has acceptance votes from meetings which at least nominally represent some 50,000 of its shop-floor workers. This gives the company the go-ahead to implement new pay scales backdated to November 21 which will give most workers average increases of around £8 a week.

The new basic rate for a grade 'B' Ford worker — the biggest proportion of those on the shop floor—working alternate fortnights day and night shifts becomes £117.44 a week.

But the Halewood plant is still in trouble over production of the new Escort on which *much of its sales hopes for this year are pinned.*

Production was stopped again yesterday with 9,000 workers laid off because of a dispute which began in the paint shop last week.

Ford suspended the paint shop workers after they refused to carry out the job which the management claim meant an extra seven seconds work on six cars an hour. The drivers walked out in sympathy and when stocks of car body shells ran out the rest of the workers had to be sent home.

Governor defends role of Bank on loans

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

Criticism of the Bank of England's role in trying to coordinate suitable financial arrangements for ailing companies was described as misconceived by Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank last night.

Mr Richardson, who was addressing the Institute of Bankers in Scotland, first stressed that the Bank's part in such operations was no more than that of the neutral chairman *helping to find solutions* acceptable both to companies and their bankers.

The Bank itself did not provide funds. Moreover, final decisions on how far it was proper for banks to continue to lend to companies remained a matter of judgment for the lending banks alone.

Mr Richardson suggested that it was wrong to believe that such operations eroded monetary control or kept alive basically unhealthy companies, thus impeding needed adjustment.

He said that the scale of lending involved was scarcely *significant in relation to total* bank lending or the size of the monetary aggregates. Lending by the banks to companies in difficulty would, in any case, not suddenly fall if there were more insolvencies.

In cases where companies would inevitably contract or founder, it was important that if good businesses could be retained from within such companies that the banks should, not least in their own interests, *do what they could to achieve* that result.

Mr Richardson said that in the present conditions of difficulty the role of the banks in financing industry called for patience, skill and judgment of a high order. But these conditions could also foster close, knowledgeable and sensitive relationships between banks and industry.

The Governor said that over the past 20 years bank lending to industry had grown half as fast again as the banks' total sterling assets. In part this reflected the impact that inflation and high government borrowing had had on long term fixed interest borrowing by the corporate sector. But it also reflected the energy and *enterprise of the banks themselves.*

Ulster fears of closure as Enkalon cuts 800 jobs

By John Huxley

British Enkalon has scrapped a £26m modernization programme at its synthetic fibres plant at Antrim, Northern Ireland, and is making a further 800 workers redundant.

It was announced yesterday the company disclosed also that it was having talks with the Government over the long-term future of the plant.

Mr J. Martin Ritchie, the chairman, said that the company recognized the serious consequences of a shutdown of the plant, which employs about 1,900 workers in an area of high unemployment.

Trading in Enkalon's shares was suspended yesterday pending an announcement of production changes and job losses which will include some workers being made redundant at its Leicester headquarters.

The Enkalon plant—making nylon, polyester filament and tyre cord—is the largest remaining company in Northern Ireland's once-thriving man-made fibres industry.

Last year, Courtaulds ended its viscose and polyester operations in Carrickfergus; Du Pont closed its acrylic fibres plant at Londonderry and ICI Fibres ended production of polyester at Kilroot, with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

British Enkalon, which is 84 per cent owned by Akzo, the Dutch chemicals and textiles group, last made a profit in 1974. In its statement the company blamed continuing substantial losses on the unfavourable trading environment for synthetic textile and carpet yarn.

These difficulties had been aggravated by the strength of sterling, recession in the British textiles industry, greatly increased imports.

Gloomy forecast: Unemployment in Northern Ireland—which was 93,800 last month—will rise to 125,000, a rate of 21.5 per cent, by the end of the year. This forecast is made in a report *The Northern Ireland Economy: the Current Economic Situation and Prospects for 1981*, which Coopers and Lybrand published in Belfast yesterday.

The study predicts a further fall of 8 per cent in Ulster's manufacturing output this year (against 6 per cent in the first three quarters of 1980), while retail business is expected to fall by a further 2 per cent, with the reduction of purchasing power resulting from increased job losses and pay settlements being below the inflation rate.

Textile redundancies: Employment in the cotton and allied textile industries fell by about 20 per cent to 45,420 in the 12 months to November last year, figures issued yesterday by the Textile Statistics Bureau show.

The total yardage of cloth produced by finishers in the three months up to November was 27 per cent down on the corresponding period of 1979.

Industry under pressure

By John Whitmore

The heavy destocking reported by industry in the three months to last September previewed any further significant deterioration in corporate sector finances during the third quarter of last year.

But the pressures on industry to destock are made clear by figures on industrial and commercial companies' cash flow published by the Central Statistical Office yesterday. These show that the cash surplus of companies before allowance for any capital expenditure items slumped to a lower level in the six months to September than in any half-yearly period since 1975-76.

Moreover, a further rise in bank borrowing during the three months to September suggests that the cash pressures on certain sectors of industry continues to be severe.

With gross trading profits in the six months to last September showing their first fall in nominal terms in a six-monthly period for 15 years, and with interest and tax payments staying high, the undistributed income of companies in the six months fell by a third compared with the previous six months.

In the third quarter itself the net surplus of companies before allowing for capital spending fell to only £1,631m.

Italian steel chairman resigns over lack of government support

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 19

Italsider, Italy's biggest steel producer, was plunged into crisis tonight with the resignation of Signor Ambrogio Puri, the chairman, in protest at lack of government support.

The state-owned Italsider, part of the Finsider group of IRI, has not made known its 1980 results, but they are expected to be worse than the 288,000m lire (£112m) loss of 1979.

Signor Puri, said in a statement that Italsider *was on the* way to recovery until mid-1980, but then came the European steel crisis. In the second half *of the year it was selling its* products at prices below those 12 months earlier, while factor costs had risen by 20 per cent.

Though the company was basically sound, it needed strong support for its reorganization from the government. "This specific support was, in reality, lacking", Signor Puri said. Signor Gianni de Michelis, the Socialist minister for state-owned industry, had adopted an attitude which was "particularly severe and I would also say unacceptable".

On December 16, he wrote to the minister asking if he would explain the situation. But there *had been more than a month* of silence. He therefore felt that his continued presence was "an obstacle towards facing questions which are daily becoming more serious and dramatic".

Belgian groups plan merger

Cockerill of Liege and Hainault-Sambre of Charleroi, Belgium's two largest steel companies, plan a merger that would create a group in the French-speaking southern part of the country with an annual production capacity of eight million tonnes.

If successful it could be followed by *closer cooperation* between the south Belgian steel industry and the Arbed Group of Luxembourg.

The plans were being explained to the Belgian Cabinet in Brussels today. The Government is bound to play a crucial role because it has large minority shareholdings in both groups, while the merger will inevitably involve a loss of jobs.

The plan as outlined at the weekend by M Julien Charlier of Cockerill and M Albert Frere of Hainault-Sambre at a meeting attended by M Willy Claes, the Belgian Economics Minister, Viscount Etienne Davignon, the European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs and M Emmanuel Tesch, the chief executive of Arbed.

It will be presented to the trade unions tomorrow and will be discussed further on Thursday at meeting of the Belgian Steel Industry Planning Council which brings together government, unions and employers.

The plans for closer cooperation with Luxembourg will be raised at the end of the week in talks between the Belgian *and Luxembourg Governments* beginning on Saturday.

Both Cockerill and the Hainault-Sambre group, which is usually referred to as the "triangle" group of companies, are heavy loss makers.

Airbus workforce to double

The number of workers employed on the part-British European Airbus will double by 1984, and British Aerospace will invest £250m in the project.

Officials say the aircraft is a "real success story" for Britain and for European cooperation, and "for the first time we are giving the American manufacturers some real competition".

Britain has a 20 per cent stake in the Airbus, which is being made by a European consortium. This week the project passes two more milestones.

Today Singapore Airlines takes delivery of the first of 12 A300 long-range Airbuses, which the makers see as "another significant step forward on a high prestige route".

This week the 150th pair of wings made by British Aerospace will be delivered to the Continent.

Thirty-nine airlines have ordered a total of 460 Airbuses, 303 of them firm orders and 157 paid options.

But the manufacturers expect to sell 1,000 by 1990 and 2,000 by the end of the century.

Retail sales show rise of only 1pc for year

By Melvyn Westlake

The underlying level of retail *business remained* depressed in December, extending the trend that has been experienced in Britain's shops since last March.

The volume of retail sales rose less than 1 per cent in the whole of 1980, compared with the previous year. In 1979 the volume of retail business rose by 4.5 per cent.

The Department of Trade's index of volume sales is provisionally estimated to have risen in December by 0.3 to 109½ (1976=100). Because this figure is seasonally adjusted, it makes no allowance for Christmas trading.

There are no complete figures yet for trading during the Christmas period, but the Retail Consortium believes that sales might have been reasonably good *during the final few* days before the holiday.

The depressed state of business generally means retailers *are continuing to cut profit* margins and maintain vigorous price promotions.

This has been the pattern for many months, and some winter "sales" began even before Christmas. Reports from the trade suggest that these "sales" have been successful in increasing business.

But, taking last year as a whole, retail sales showed their smallest volume growth for three years as unemployment rose and people chose to save more of their incomes.

At the same time, while the average value of retail sales was 14 per cent up on 1979, many other items of consumption like housing, fuel and transport rose much faster in price.

Expenditure on these latter *items tends to be given priority*, with the result that the amount of money left for spending on retail goods was reduced.

Overall, consumers' expenditure is unlikely to have shown much increase in 1980, compared with 1979, and is forecast by the Treasury to fall by about 0.5 per cent this year.

As fuel and some other public sector prices are expected to rise this year by more than the general level of inflation, retail sales are again likely to be squeezed.

Retail sales account for about half of all consumer spending. Yesterday's figures show retail sales rose slightly in volume during the fourth quarter (seasonally adjusted), to regain the level of the second quarter, but still below that for the first three months of 1980.

Table, page 23

£10m Tunnel bid for US group

By Margareta Pagano

Tunnel Holdings, Britain's third largest cement producer, yesterday further strengthened its chemicals operations with a £10m offer for Alcolac, an American chemicals company.

Shareholders representing 50.25 per cent of the equity of Alcolac, based in Baltimore, Maryland, have already agreed in principle to the merger. The board has recommended the takeover to shareholders.

Alcolac, which in the year to June, 1980, returned pretax profits of £1.2m, is quoted on the American Stock Exchange. It manufactures and sells speciality chemicals at Baltimore and Sedalia, Missouri, and in Quebec, Canada. It also owns 79 per cent of Wapora Inc, a research consultancy specializing in environmental contract work, based in Washington, DC. Net assets were valued last June at £5.8m. Sales were £15.8m for the year.

Mr Derek Birkin, chairman of Tunnel, said that Alcolac business was complementary to Tunnel's existing speciality chemicals activities. Tunnel made its maiden investment into this territory in 1978 with its acquisition in 1973 of a speciality chemicals division from Barrow Hepburn for £10.5m. It also has interests in toxic waste disposal.

This division turned in a slightly lower profit contribution at £1.05m in the six months to September this year, compared to £1.37m in the previous period. The drop is blamed on the strength of sterling and the recession—70 per cent of its sales are made outside the United Kingdom.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Ass Paper	4p to 29p	Reed A.	8p to 62p
Daily Mail Tst	7p to 473p	Richards & Wall	3p to 20p
Ferranti	15p to 450p	Scot & Merc 'A'	8p to 176p
More O'Ferrall	8p to 106p	Vickers	8p to 142p
Racal Elect	6p to 299p	Westland Air	6p to 128p

Falls

Barclays	14p to 396p	Lasmo	10p to 707p
Burnett H'shire	15p to 888p	Mercantile Hse	17p to 548p
De La Rue	25p to 675p	Sangers	3p to 41p
Harrisons Cros	24p to 763p	Unitech	13p to 229p
ICI	8p to 286p		

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.11	2.03	Norway Kr	12.97	12.42
Austria Sch	35.80	33.80	Portugal Esc	135.00	127.00
Belgium Fr	80.25	76.75	South Africa Rd	2.08	1.95
Canada $	2.92	2.84	Spain Pta	197.50	189.00
Denmark Kr	15.40	14.70	Sweden Kr	11.10	10.60
Finland Mkk	9.75	9.30	Switzerland Fr	4.53	4.32
France Fr	11.47	11.02	USA $	2.46	2.39
Germany DM	4.99	4.77	Yugoslavia Dnr	84.00	79.00
Greece Dr	127.00	120.00			
Hongkong $	12.78	12.18			
Ireland Pt	1.34	1.28			
Italy Lir	2420.00	2310.00			
Japan Yn	510.00	484.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.41	5.18			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Insurance bodies tighten their standards of conduct

Closing the door on doubtful selling

The foot-in-the-door insurance salesman of ill-repute had better be careful. His technique of promising the earth and goodness knows what else has not only been rumbled, but the onus has now shifted to the insurance company using his (or her) services to do something about it.

The life insurance associations (the Life Offices' Association, Associated Scottish Life Offices and Industrial Life Offices Association) and the British Insurance Association, have at long last published codes of conduct governing the selling to both life and general insurance.

As soon as the insurance *broking fraternity came under* greater scrutiny, culminating in the Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act 1978, it was only a matter of time before the insurance industry had to look to the source of the other half (more, in many cases) of its business—direct salesmen, other intermediaries and agents such as accountants, and the mere introducers of new business.

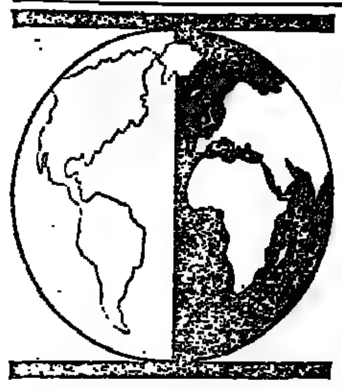
The codes of conduct, devised *after detailed discussions* with the Department of Trade, the appropriate professional bodies and consumer interests, have been a long time coming. They were initially expected last autumn and there have been a couple of false dawns since then...

Salesmen and other sales agents must abide by the code of conduct, but in the final analysis it is up to the insurance company to make sure that people it employs observe the rules, otherwise membership of the trade associations could ultimately be forfeit.

To be fair to the industry and its agents, most reputable companies and salesmen—whether employed directly or not—already adhere to the principles laid down by the codes of conduct.

But woe betide anyone in future who makes an unsolicited or unarranged call on a prospective policyholder at a time which not "likely to be suitable", or who fails to make it known "as soon as possible" *that it is life insurance he wants* to discuss: this is a dig at the clip board questioners purporting to be conducting a survey on savings.

Margaret Stone



$400m extra Chrysler guarantees

The United States Government's Chrysler Loan Board yesterday finally approved the issue of up to $400m (£168m) of government guaranteed loans to the ailing car maker.

The Congress now has 15 days to review this decision and it looks almost certain that the company will be able to obtain the cash in early February.

Already Chrysler has drawn $800m of government-secured loans.

Legislation provides for an overall total of $1,500m of guaranteed loans for Chrysler and official budget estimates released here include provision for Chrysler obtaining the full amount by the end of September of this year.

Venezuelan exports

Venezuela has agreed to boost oil exports to Italy, according to a joint statement issued in Caracas after four days of talks between Signor Emilio Colombo, the Italian foreign minister and Venezuelan government officials. The amount was not specified.

Danish krone threat

Expected rises in Denmark's balance of payments and state budget deficits will probably prompt new government economic measures this year, and possibly force an aggressive depreciation of the krone, Den Danske Bank said in Copenhagen.

Nissan in Mexico

Nissan Motor Co said in Tokyo that its Mexican subsidiary, Nissan Mexicana SA plans to spend about $300m (about £125m) over the next four years to treble engine production to 360,000 a year.

Record Swiss deficit

Switzerland's trade deficit widened to a record 11,250m francs (about £2,604m) in 1980 from 4,710m francs in 1979, because of considerably higher imports, the Federal customs office said in Berne.

Iran shares move

Iran's parliament, the Majlis, has dismissed a proposal to nationalize all shares held by foreigners in Iranian companies, because it lacked any reference to compensation.

Move to speed application of automatic speech recognition systems

Collaborating with industry in new projects

The National Physical Laboratory and Warren Spring Laboratory, two Department of Industry research establishments, have set up collaborative projects with industry to hasten the application of specific technologies. The subjects are automatic speech recognition and microelectronics-based control systems for the process industries.

At the NPL, Teddington, Middlesex, a speech-recognition club has been formed to help the transfer of NPL technology in this area to industry members such as Ferranti Computer Systems, Plessey, Systems Designers, Quest Automation Research and Nexos Office Systems.

Direct speech input to automatic systems, already available to a limited extent, is expected to show advantages in a wide range of equipment for business, process control, aviation electronics and defence systems. It offers the most natural and quickest form of human communication.

Work at NPL has concentrated on continuously spoken input. Existing systems in general require special enunciation, with gaps between words, but the NPL system can accept input as it it normally spoken.

Background noise, and the limitations of the telephone, are also taken into account in the NPL method. Thus the work should lead to the integration of speech with the accepted means of business, and should reduce the present dependency on methods of data capture which require highly skilled staff.

In the second government-industry link, Warren Spring Laboratory at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, has set up a collaborative project known as Microbatch with a group of 20 companies in the process plant and instrumentation industries. The aim is to overcome problems in the effective introduction of advanced control technology.

Problems include the specification and choice of equipment; making sure of the performance and compatibility of instruments; ensuring reliability of electronics in the factory environment; and the motivation of operators, engineers and supervisors.

The jointly funded Microbatch project aims to overcome such problems through surveys of systems; specifications for environmental protection of equipment; evolution of process-control strategies and techniques, including human factors; and case studies of working systems. The scheme is open to further member companies.

Technology News

Greater efficiency with solar cell

An experimental solar cell based on amorphous silicon has converted light into electricity with an efficiency of 6.6 per cent, according to reports from Energy Conversion Devices of Troy, Michigan. The material is claimed to promise an efficiency of 7 to 10 per cent, at which level such cells could compete economically with electricity from conventional power plants.

The claims are made by Mr Stanford Ovshinsky, founder of the company. Its solar-cell research is being conducted under an agreement with Atlantic Richfield, which has put up $28.3m (about £12m) for various energy-related projects with the company.

Conventional silicon solar cells, as used on spacecraft, use crustalline silicon in which the atoms are aligned in a lattice-like arrangement. In amorphous silicon, the atoms are not arranged in any geometrical order.

The main advantage claimed for the amorphous material for solar cells is that it should be much cheaper to produce. It would be deposited as a thin film on large sheets of material. The experimental device is only about one-tenth of an inch square; but the company said it was developing a machine which could turn out 16-inch square panels of the amorphous film.

Previously, the highest achieved efficiency using amorphous-silicon was 5.5 per cent, obtained by researchers at RCA Corporation in 1977. The new figure of 6.6 per cent was achieved in a thin film of amorphous silicon alloyed with fluorine and hydrogen.

Mr Ovshinsky has met with some scepticism over his claims that the new material can lead to an economically competitive solar-energy converter far sooner and at a cheaper price than the goal set by the United States Department of Energy.

The Department of Energy's target date for the mass production of solar-cell modules, that will cost about $1.60 to $2.20 per peak watt of electricity, is 1986. The recent development by Energy Conversion Devices relates only to the conversion efficiency of the material; much further work is needed in moving from this stage to the completion of solar-cell modules.

In another line of solar-cell research, Solarex of Rockville, Maryland and Westinghouse Advanced Energy Systems of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are to develop new factory processes for solar-cell modules under contract to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena, California.

JPL is managing a programme known as the Low-cost solar array project on behalf of the Department of Energy. The two companies will develop experimental factory processes which demonstrate the ability to produce modules which could be sold at a price of 70 cents a watt (at 1980 prices).

Kenneth Owen and AP-Dow Jones

BP Chemicals reaffirms faith in £57m Grangemouth alcohol plant

By John Huxley

BP Chemicals yesterday ended months of uncertainty over the future of its new £57m synthetic alcohol plant at Grangemouth, when it confirmed that the plant will definitely be completed.

Mr Robert Horton, the managing director, said: "We have decided to give an unqualified go-ahead for the ethanol project at Grangemouth." In a message to the group's 14,000 employees, he added that the decision also reaffirmed BP's faith in the future of the Scottish port, on the Forth, as a petrochemical centre.

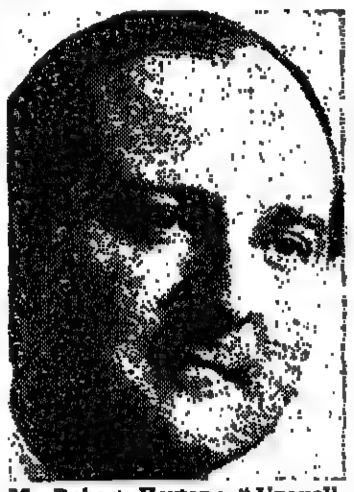
The new plant will employ the latest technology and will confirm BP Chemicals as one of the world's largest producers of synthetic alcohol, which is an important raw material in the manufacture of products ranging from pharmaceuticals to adhesives. It is also widely used, in its denatured form, as a solvent in cosmetics, varnishes, inks and detergents.

Work on the new plant, which will have a capacity of 150,000 tonnes a year, began early in 1979 and has been under constant review since. Its completion has been threatened by proposed European Community regulations on alcohol production, which BP claims would disrupt the market.

The draft regulations contained proposals to allow up to 100,000 tonnes a year of alcohol produced from agricultural materials such as wine, potatoes, beet, fruit or cereals, to be sold into the European market at subsidized prices.

BP Chemicals argued that the influx of cut-price product, in competition with synthetic alcohol produced from ethylene, would wreck a European market balanced at about 400,000 tonnes a year.

Work on the Grangemouth project was halted at least once, and in the past year BP Chemicals again let it be known that the progress of the regulations was jeopardizing the future of the project. Last April, indicated that it was prepared to challenge through the courts the validity of the proposals in the draft regulations if they were approved.



Mr Robert Horton: "Unqualified go-ahead" for project.

In fact, the Community has been trying to produce a policy for alcohol for about eight years, and for much of this time draft regulations have been bogged down in the Commission machinery.

The Grangemouth plant will replace capacity of 90,000 tonnes a year in two old units and adds to the group's commitment to synthetic alcohol at its South Wales plant.

Electronics talks begin at NEDO

A meeting at the National Economic Development Office today marks the beginning of a renewed attempt to establish priorities and an overall industrial strategy for the electronics industry.

The meeting is the first to be held by the reconstituted Electronics Economic Development Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Chilver, vice-chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology

The importance attached to the subject is reflected in the high level of the membership of the development committee. Chairmen and managing directors who are members include Mr Derek Alun-Jones of Ferranti, Sir William Barlow of Thorn-EMI, Mr Peter Benton of Post Office Telecommunications, Sir Kenneth Corfield of Standard Telephones and Cables, Dr James Merriman of the National Computing Centre, Mr Des Pitcher of Plessey Telecommunications and Office Systems, Sir Robert Telford of GEC-Marconi Electronics, and Dr Chris Wilson of International Computers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reasons for buoyancy of exports

From Professor D. K. Stout

Sir, Mr Melvyn Westlake (*The Times*, January 14, "How much of a crisis in exports?") draws attention to the strange buoyancy of British exports of manufactures during the past two years, while a combination of the rise in sterling and the increase in our unit labour costs has reduced our overall cost competitiveness by between 40 and 50 per cent.

One factor which Mr Westlake mentions has been well established empirically over several decades: the United Kingdom share of world exports tends to hold up better when the home market weakens. As the Treasury used to say long ago: "You can't get a quart out of a pint bottle". But this is not a convincing explanation of what has been happening lately. Our own "pint bottle" was very far from full in 1978. Spare capacity abounded, yet manufactured imports were being sucked in at a prodigious rate.

There do appear to be only two other plausible explanations. One is the existence of a long lag before customers react to higher (foreign currency) prices. We shall have to wait and see. It took fully two years for the 1967 devaluation to begin to have its full effect upon the British balance of payments, and it may be that all the news on the export front is bad and it is all still travelling towards us. It would be surprising if this is the whole story, since the real effective exchange rate has now been rising since 1976.

The remaining possibility is that our manufacturers have been improving price-performance during the last two years by "up-market" moves towards more sophisticated and high-performance products and specifications. This is a very difficult hypothesis to test statistically, but there are some odd straws of what may be future bricks.

Mr Michael Brech of the National Economic Development Office (NEDO) and I have found that between 1978 and 1980, within mechanical engineering, the growth of the value of British exports among *high value* products (measured by the crude indication of £000 per tonne of product) has been several times faster than the growth of sales value in the other products in the sector. *Before* 1978 sales growth was much the same for cheap and dear products alike. (The results of this work will be published later this year as part of a symposium in *Oxford Economic Papers* on "the monetary supply and the exchange rate".)

Mr Westlake may be right to say that: "No evidence of any improvement in non-price factors has yet been found by economists in Whitehall". But during my time in NEDO we were able to find some evidence of the part played by these factors in the decline in the United Kingdom export share. And it is just possible that we are now seeing the first signs of a breakdown in yet another "well-established relationship". One hopes so—even though it may be cold comfort if and when the full force of our loss of cost competitiveness rolls in upon us.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STOUT,
Department of Economics,
University of Leicester,
Leicester, LE1 7RH.
January 15.

Clearing banks' influence

From Mr A. J. Hatton

Sir, Although well intentioned, the passionate appeal of Mr John Brown (January 5) does not appear to be as well considered.

In his support of the mysterious Mr Derek Wheatley (who is subsequently disclosed to be a Lloyds' Bank lawyer despite his self-effacing use of a club address), Mr Brown implores the government to retain the "non-discrimination clause" imposed by the British clearing banks on retailers in Britain by way of the credit card union. Mr Brown says that without this clause, garages for example, will make a surcharge on transactions paid for by credit cards.

Mr Brown should consider carefully the implications of becoming too partisan. Clearly a retailers' discrimination by surcharge is merely a defensive shield against the potent blow that the cost of a credit card transaction would have upon his profit margins, which, in the case of petrol sales, are crucially narrow.

When the clearing banks, through their credit card schemes, make more profit upon the sale of a gallon of petrol than the garage itself, then clearly the position requires fair legal controls and makes Mr Brown's conclusions even more bizarre.

While one wisely avoids repetition of the phrase and issue of "ripping off", one cannot but feel that endorsement of the "non-discrimination clause" will only add to the heavy yoke already borne by the United Kingdom economy by reason of the clearing banks' overweening influence upon industry and commerce.

A. J. HATTON,
13 Sumner Place,
London SW7.
January 8.

Disturbed by staples

From Mrs Dorothy M. Box

Sir, I possess two domestic paper staplers—one from Boots the other from W. H. Smith's. Recently, I needed a further supply of staples. I discovered that the model sold by W. H. Smith is no longer available, but was assured by an assistant that I had suitable staples—the only small ones on sale. I found they did not fit!

You can imagine how discountenanced I was to discover that Boots had also changed their model with the same result.

Then I made a happy discovery—the W. H. Smith's replacement staples are ideal for the Boots stapler and vice-versa. Other people may find that this knowledge obviates the need to buy a new stapler! However, this does raise several disturbing questions concerning efficiency, customer service, etc. How much do we matter? I would be interested to know if this is an isolated example or whether we, the customers, are being treated with complete contempt.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY M. BOX,
41 Holmfield Avenue East,
Leicester Forest East,
Leicester.

Delivering Yellow Pages

From Mr David Stern

Sir, I was very much encouraged by Mr Mavin's reply to my complaint on non-existent emergency services (January ...) and he has every right to complain of the money he spent to advertise in the Yellow Pages.

My letter made it clear that I checked every advertiser in the 1978 editions, for the simple reason that I have never received a 1979 or 1980 edition of the Yellow Pages. That would appear to make Mr Mavin and his fellow advertisers' investment pretty valueless. Perhaps the Post Office could explain its Yellow Pages directory distribution policy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STERN,
David Stern & Partners,
Opera Omnia Design Centre,
69 Caversham Road,
London, NW5.
January 15.

Financing perils

From Mr A. F. Liddell

Sir, Mr Dearing, chairman Post & National Girobank (January 12) seeks to parallel the perils of postal financing with those of private businesses.

He graciously conceded that such businesses are making difficult decisions and developing survival initiatives, but he fails to acknowledge, and perhaps appreciate, how the task of the organization for which he has responsibility is significantly eased—even simplified—by the "monopoly" factor.

A. F. LIDDELL,
"The Tusset",
9 Whitburn Bents Road,
South Bents,
Sunderland.
January 12.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Davy goes to court

...e decision by the board of Davy ...rporation to begin litigation in the United ...ates in the face of the bid from Enserch ...rporation duly provoked murmurs of "...nfair" in the Enserch camp.

The Enserch case would be that a bid ...r a British company should be subject to ...e rules of British takeover practice, and ...at it is unfortunate that Davy has chosen ...invoke the rough and tumble of American ...keover regulations with all the legalistic ...raphernalia that this involves.

This is not a persuasive argument, and ...t simply because Enserch is an American ...mpany and has in any case to register ...intention of the Davy takeover with the ...rious United States authorities. But also ...cause it fails to recognize that the ...olition of exchange controls by Britain ...d thus the opportunity for foreign ...mpanies to bid in paper—as Enserch is ...ing—opens up a new dimension in the ...keover arena and one which suggests that ...is absolutely reasonable for a company ...the receiving end of a bid to seek com... ...t in whatever courts it wishes provided ...is felt to be in the best interests of share... ...lders.

Davy's board seems clear that it is not ...mply creating a delaying tactic by going ...to the United States courts (though this ...ill be the effect) : it is acting in what it ...lieves to be the shareholders' best ...terests because it feels that there is ...sufficient information on Enserch to ...arrant Davy shareholders accepting its ...aper and, because it is unhappy about the ...arket circumstances prior to the bid last ...onth, a suggestion already recognized in ...e London market by a Stock Exchange ...quiry into dealings.

Meanwhile, Davy shareholders had better ...e prepared for a long wait. Given that ...ere could even be a Monopolies Commis... ...on inquiry which Enserch may accept, it ...ould be six or seven months before this ...tuation is resolved.

hard going until November's MLR cut. With the group still building up its capital base again, the dividend rises by a modest 6½ per cent to give a yield of 8.75 per cent with the shares up 4p to 277p yesterday.

Stock relief

The accountants are annoyed

Opponents of the Inland Revenue's proposals on reform of the stock relief scheme may be spitting in the wind given that the original green paper was more a tablet of stone than a consultative document. But there is an important principle at stake, namely that the authorities are going back on their undertaking to use current cost accounts as the basis for future company taxation, which is going to be especially critical in the next green paper, promised early next year, on the broader question of corporation tax.

Even now the wording of the stock relief proposals suggests that CCA accounting will get short shrift next time as well so the avalanche of criticism against the stock relief proposals may not be wasted if it influences the Revenue's thinking in future.

Yesterday it was the turn of the 100 Group, representing the finance directors of the leading London-based companies, to add their voices. Conceding that the thrust of the Revenue's proposals are a fait accompli, the group suggests two changes to mitigate the worst effects. One is that individual industry indices should be used to calculate relief and not the all-stocks index, which in addition to reverting to the current purchasing power concept so roundly condemned as the basis for inflation accounting is also grossly inequitable, especially for commodity-oriented concerns.

The other is that if the credit restriction is retained it should at least abandon the idea of using group balance sheets as the basis of computation, discriminating as this does against large companies. The group would also like to get the credit restriction much closer to a CCA base by offsetting liabilities against net current assets, and this would also stop companies playing around with their working capital to take maximum advantage of the gearing adjustment.

At the end of the day the differences between the Revenue and its opponents (the accountants in particular) are probably irreconcilable but at least the strident tones of the criticisms will have served some purpose.

Discount houses

Adapting to change

...1980 was a frustrating year for discount ...ouses in terms of interest rate movement, ...at can hardly matter in the longer term ...rspective. The real significance of 1980 ...as that it was the year when the would-be ...dical reformers of the monetary system ...iled to sweep the houses off the centre of ...e monetary stage.

The essence of the Bank of England's ...atement on the future evolution of mone... ...ry control methods last November, at least ...far as the houses were concerned, was ...at the Bank disliked the idea of conduct... ...g its main open market operations eyeball ...eyeball with the clearing banks. In this ...id at least it preferred the status quo.

That does not, of course, mean that the ...uses have been left to heave a sigh of ...lief and simply go back to the usual ...clical pattern of bonanza profits when ...terest rates are falling, and trying to put ...the shutters in cyclical upswings. The ...ture of the Bank's open market operations ...s already changed significantly, with both ...des slowly feeling their way towards a ...tem that will supposedly lead to more ...arket determination of short term interest ...tes and, finally, to the burying of politi... ...lly embarrassing nomenclatures such as ...LR.

But that is clearly only the first step in ...he process of change. The next major ...tems for the house are going to be the new ...rudential liquidity norms for the banks, ...ny proposed changes in the rules governing ...he size and shape of the houses' own ...perations, and the impact of changing ...nancial flows in the system.

The expectation, presumably, must be that ...he liquidity rules will still push substantial ...anking funds the houses' way, just as the ...eserve asset requirement does. With the ...bolition of the corset, however, the com... ...ercial bill business must have seen its best ...ays, so it may well be that the authorities ...ill be expecting the houses to be signifi... ...ant takers of any new public sector debt ...struments they may be planning.

Meanwhile, Alexanders, after the trau... ...atic end to 1979 has moved from a (de... ...lared) loss of £250,000 for 1979 to a profit ...f £1.25m for 1980. It was clearly a patchy ...ear, however, and the second half fairly

Year to 30 September	1980	1979
	£000	
	14,345	15,110
	16,927	15,2..
	4,406	...
	6,760	12,..
	28.3p	..
	5.5p	..
	4,000	3,0..
	1,092	..

Dunlop

Those mystery shareholders

A Department of Trade inquiry designed to identify heavy Far Eastern buyers of shares in Britain's leading tyre manufacturer, Dunlop, is now complete and its findings could be published in the next two weeks.

But by all accounts the investigation has run into the sand just as Dunlop's own inquiries did last year. All that it really known is that a number of Far Eastern buyers, prominent among them Mr Ghafar Baba, a leading Malaysian businessman, have built up stakes which collectively amount to up to 30 per cent of Dunlop's capital, and that this could be used as a base for a full takeover bid.

The Department of Trade has the power to disenfranchise unidentified overseas shareholders, but this would be an extreme measure and one unlikely to be used in the case of Dunlop.

More likely, the inspectors will point to a thoroughly unsatisfactory situation, but be unable to establish any evidence of concerted action by the nominee holders.

In which case the situation will remain a stalemate unless and until Far Eastern interests actually launch a bid or back some Malaysian initiative to take over Dunlop's lucrative plantations in that part of the world.

Either way Dunlop would seem likely to receive suport in opposing such moves from the British authorities. The Department of Trade has implied by its readiness to carry out an inquiry that it would step in should any overseas predator emerge.

Against this background, the realities of the trade recession will continue to outweigh the speculative possibilities in Dunlop's share price.

J K Galbraith

Monetarism is not the road to salvation

> 'Should we not have a policy that is within the going level of competence of central bankers?'

There is a problem with any new aircraft design, any surgical or medical procedure if, when put into practice, it does not work. The designer or the doctor survives; it is very hard on the passengers or patient. And so it is in economics and with the present passion for monetarism.

Both in Britain and the United States the proponents are still vigorous and content. The passengers and patients are having a difficult time.

The shortcomings in this design are manifold. None is in the realm of theory; all, alas, are now matters of experience.

There is, first of all, the question of what in the modern economy is to be called money. Once this was simple; it was silver, gold, copper or, for nearly two hundred years in two of Britain's American colonies, tobacco.

Now it can be hand-to-hand currency, deposits subject to check, savings deposits that can quickly be made a means of payment, unused overdraft facilities, unused lines of credit, the considerable store of purchasing power that lies behind the modern credit card.

Whatever modest agreement there may be as to what should be called money is, in fact, quite arbitrary. There is a problem in controlling the supply of what you do not know you are controlling.

There is a more serious problem in the instruments of control. All recent experience in Britain and the United States reveals a great uncertainty in the relationship between any given use of instruments for the control of the supply of money and the resulting supply. Interest rates can be raised, bank lending can be more tightly constrained, more specific restraints be imposed on borrowing and the money supply can still show large, seemingly random fluctuations.

Professor Milton Friedman, whose formula for economic success has captured the British Government, has conceded that these efforts at control have been ineffective. But he has attributed them to the incompetence of the Bank of England and, by inference, that of the Federal Reserve System. But should we not have a policy that is within the going level of competence of central bankers?

It is now the harsh experience in both our countries that the instruments available for the control of the money supply cannot, in fact, control the money supply; and the use of these instruments has its own special consequence.

The instruments of monetary policy operate against inflation only as they restrict the spending and respending of borrowed money. But it is borrowed money that, in very large measure, improves and modernizes industrial plant. Any considerable reliance on the instruments of monetary policy is thus directly adverse to efforts to improve productivity.

There is worse to come. The curtailment of spending and respending of borrowed funds, if pressed vigorously enough, will bring a curtailment of output and an increase in unemployment. This is its intention. It is this idle plant capacity and this unemployment that is expected to arrest inflation.

Idle plant has a further adverse effect on productivity. If old plant capacity is idle, new plant is not added. And, as a very practical matter, it is by adding new plant and equipment that industry reduces cost and improves productivity.

Nor can it be assumed that the culling out process which goes with idle plant capacity, unemployment and recession does much for productivity. I am sure that the firms being put out of business in Britain are not necessarily inefficient. Far more likely it is those that, by the nature of their operations, depend on borrowed money — on the borrowing that it is the purpose of monetary policy to restrain.

I come now to the worst news of all. The monetarism to which our governments are committed cannot control the supply of money. It can curtail borrowing and investment, cull out the firms that depend on borrowed money, cause recession and unemployment. This it has done in Britain — and in the United States.

But it cannot stop inflation. In Britain, though down to 15 per cent per annum from its recent peak, inflation remains at nearly twice the level at which it stood when the present policy was unleashed.

In the United States a severe exercise in monetary policy has just produced the deepest recession since the 1930s and, as in Britain, the upward thrust of industrial prices has been undeterred.

Unemployment has increased. Production has fallen. Weak industries have been duly punished. The wage-income-price interaction has continued. It is not too much to say that modern monetary policy has shown itself admirably efficacious in producing all available adverse effects. It fails only in doing what it is meant to do—to prevent inflation.

What is the alternative?

Monetarism fails because it cannot contend with the highly organized world of the modern corporation, the modern trade union, the modern farm organization, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the personal bargaining power with which modern society endows many individuals. *The interacting power of these groups and individuals continues to drive up prices in face of the most severe monetary restraint.*

Any alternative to monetarism must involve direct restraint on organized market power. There can be no alternative that does not involve an effective prices and incomes policy.

Any alternative to monetarism must also involve a greater use of fiscal policy whenever macroeconomic restraint on aggregate demand is required. Better the restraint by way of the budget than on borrowing. The relationship between action and result is more certain; if the restraint falls on private or public consumption expenditure the adverse effect on productivity is elided.

However, we should not concentrate our fiscal efforts on the public expenditure. That too often involves the heartless manipulation of the services of lower-income families and the poor. I would urge a much more general use of graduated VAT-type taxes on the luxury expenditures of the affluent.

These are the alternatives to the present policy; they are the alternatives to which, not from persuasion but from force of hard circumstance, the industrial countries will eventually come.

Britain and the United States have been seized by the idea that what worked, however harshly, in the nineteenth century is somehow our salvation now. That, in the last analysis, is the monetarist faith—and with it goes the unemployment and hardship which made nineteenth century capitalism the enemy of those who served it.

The above article is an edited version of an address prepared for a debate at the Cambridge Union last night. The author is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Harvard University.

The NCB's plans are going awry. Nicholas Hirst reports

Difficult choices for the coal board

Stark choices face the National Coal Board over the next few months. Its leaders are to address representatives of the National Union of Mineworkers on February 10 and unless there is an unexpected relaxation in the financial framework imposed on it by the Government, it is difficult to see how a retrenchment in either investment or manpower can be avoided.

Put simply, the coal industry is a victim of the recession. In the bright new dawn of the days after the Conservatives won the election, the Department of Energy, under the enthusiastic guidance of Mr John Moore, the junior minister responsible for coal, produced a plan to reduce the National Coal Board's dependence on grants and bring it to profitability by 1983/84.

Enshrined in a Coal Bill published last April, later becoming the Coal Act, the plan gradually reduced government assistance to the industry, apart from certain grants given for social reasons, and relief of interest on some loans. The board was given its marching orders. The days of subsidy were to come to an end.

The NCB would either prove it was able to compete with importers and competitor fuels, or it would be forced to contract. How the board met the new financial targets was not up to the Government, the choices of successful expansion or defensive cutbacks were for the industry to make.

Even last April the discipline seemed harsh. The coal industry had undergone more than a decade of contraction and decline before the 1973/4 oil crisis had made it more important in the United Kingdom energy mix. To fix such a short period for its return to financial independence was arguably both arbitrary and harsh. There was, and is, a strong case on grounds of energy security for building a healthy indigenous coal industry. An over-hurried requirement to bring it to profitability could damage that sensible long-term aim.

The recession has effectively destroyed the coal board's chances of meeting the targets it has been set. Energy consumption in the three months September to November was down almost 6 per cent on the same period the year before. In the first 11 months of last year electricity use was down 4.3 per cent and coal consumption down 4.7 per cent.

Special buying arrangements with the electricity generating authorities and the British Steel Corporation have protected the board from the worst of the fall in demand, but its exports are being hit by intense competition and the rise in the pound has made imports an increasingly attractive alternative to United Kingdom mined output.

Last October in reply to the National Union of Mineworkers' pay claim, the NCB estimated that in the year to March it would sell 6 million tonnes less than the year before, and there are no signs of an upturn in 1981/82. To add to its problems, the seamen's action is preventing the delivery of coal from the North-East to power station's on the Thames.

The coal board feels that fate has been particularly unkind. The recession came just as the investment programme instituted under its *Plan for Coal* of 1974 was, it claimed, beginning to pay off. Productivity at the coal face is now running 7 per cent higher than two years ago, output per man is continuing to improve and 1979/80 saw the first improvement in deep-mined output (excepting the effect of strikes) since 1963. The improvements, however, have been a long time in coming and the government could fairly argue that the coal board had been investing heavily for too long for so little achievement.

When *Plan for Coal* was launched it was intended to maintain deep-mined output at around 120 million tonnes and raise open-mined output from 10 million to 15 million tonnes by 1985. To replace outdated pits some 20 million tonnes was to come from new mines and *22 million from improving old pits.*

The plan has slipped badly. The coal board both underestimated the effects of the *starvation of investment from* which pits had suffered for the previous decade and the length of time taken to bring on new capacity.

The Selby project, which gained planning consent relatively quickly, will not produce any coal for another two or three years, while the Vale of Belvoir, where exploration was well advanced in 1975, has yet to receive planning permission. The lack of previous investment throughout the industry meant that production from older pits slipped back faster than new improvements came in, with the result that uneconomic mines have been kept open for longer than intended.

It has been estimated that 10 million tonnes a year of the NCB's output is being produced at pits which never can be profitable, at an overall loss of £100m. But union resistance to pit closures is strong, and if the coal industry is to provide long-term energy security in the United Kingdom, the goodwill of the miners is needed to carry it forward. Large-scale redundancies after several years of industrial peace and a greatly improved attendance record, *could wreck much of* the understanding which has undoubtedly developed between management and labour.

The day of reckoning, however, is close at hand. The coal board has already proved to be so pushed for cash that it was forced to declare a moratorium on the ordering of new *equipment. Its external cash* limit of £882m is only £50m more than last year and its grants are being reduced in real terms. Its increasing coal *production is going into stock,* raising its financing costs, while 7½ million tonnes of coal are being imported this year at cheaper prices than it can match.

With no relief from improving demand in sight, cuts will have to be made. The board has yet to decide what they will be, but when it faces the NUM next month it is going to have to live with the uncomfortable reality that nothing that can be said is going to go down well.

The choices are clear. The board can delay its capital investment programme of £600m a year, it can cut down on recruitment, close down uneconomic pits—indeed, it was reported yesterday to have drawn up plans to close 25 pubs — or improve cash flow at the expense of profitability *by buying new markets* with cut-price exports. It cannot do the last for long, for while it may keep the board within external finance limits it *will do nothing towards helping* achieve break-even.

It can do a combination of these things, but it has to do something. The Government *has to decide whether it is wise* to insist on carrying through a financial strategy for the industry which was conceived in a different economic climate *from that prevailing today.*

There must be strong arguments for the acceleration of the closure of uneconomic pits, particularly when the coal board is producing more than it can sell, but there are equally strong arguments for taking action which would avoid slowing down the gains which have undoubtedly been made by the industry in the past couple of years. It may be sensible for the Government to recognize that its plans for the coal industry did not envisage the extent of the recession, and modify them accordingly.

The Russian who advocates unemployment

Moscow

A radical Soviet professor who is not afraid to question many entrenched assumptions about his country's economy has just come very close to an open call for a system of unemployment in the Soviet Union—something the Russians boast they have not known for 50 years.

Only by creating a pool of temporarily unemployed workers, he argues, will the state be able to reduce the overmanning in industry while releasing much-needed labour for reassignment to Siberia and other priority development areas. At the same time, he says, the threat of dismissal will galvanize lazy workers into greater productivity and induce them to respect their place of work a *little* more.

These suggestions were put forward recently in a long article in *Pravda* by Professor Gavriil Popov, an economist from Moscow State University who has already stirred up controversy with ideas on mopping up surplus money in circulation and increasing wage differentials.

His article calls for a vast extension of the so-called Shchekino system to all sectors of the Soviet economy. The Shchekino experiment was an attempt to do something about the country's labour shortage by giving factories financial inducements to shed labour.

The problem with most of Soviet industry is that it hoards labour. It does this partly because the larger the workforce, the greater the overhead payments for clubs and social amenities, partly to cope with the seasonal demand for workers to help with the harvest, and partly to be able to deal with any unexpected innovations or changes in the plan assigned to each factory.

As an experiment, a chemical plant at Shchekino, a town near Tula some 100 miles south of Moscow, was instead given a bonus for every worker it dismissed. The bonuses were used to increase the wages of those remaining and to introduce automation thus making it possible to get rid of more workers. *Meanwhile a parallel plant that* was starting up took on those who left the chemical works.

Much has been written about this system, which, some six years after it began, has been officially declared a success. But so far its application has been limited to about only 1,000 Soviet factories. The drawback, of course, is that in order to avoid unemployment, there has *to be a guaranteed job near by* for the redundant workers to go to.

Professor Popov wants a more radical and widespread extension of this principle—the only way, he submits, for industry to become more efficient and for the country to shake out hidden reserves of labour at a time when a rapid fall in the birth rate is leading to a serious shortage of workers.

But Mr Popov's innovation is that he believes the factory shedding labour should not have *to worry about where to place* the men, as it does now. Let the local authorities be responsible for them, he says. Furthermore, let them be paid only the legal *minimum* wage—80 roubles (£50) a month—while they are without a job, but let the rest of their wages saved by the factory be shared out *between the remaining workers.*

He says the state guarantees every citizen the right to work, but there is no clause in the constitution saying he has to *be paid more than this legal* minimum.

While the men are waiting for a new job, Mr Popov suggests, they could be used to repair the streets, work in vegetable markets or on the farms. This experience of unemployment in all but name he believes would be very salutory: as soon as they found a job corresponding to their qualifications they would work that much harder there so as not to be counted among the least productive workers who, under the Shchekino system, are the prime candidates for dismissal.

Mr Popov admits that it is not easy to start sacking workers. When it comes down to choosing whom to dismiss, one man has to be kept because he is a good athlete, *one because he is a* volunteer policeman, and another because he has many children. But, he adds rather toughly, the state is not in the *business of running factory* clubs but of making its industries efficient. Let the factory director tell the workers the harsh truth, and they will probably accept it with good grace.

No worker would be without *employment for long, though* he might have to move to a different town where the labour shortage was greater, particularly beyond the Urals in Siberia where there is an urgent need for workers to exploit the mineral wealth. Only "incorrigible idlers" would find it hard to get a new job—and Mr Popov, like many other Soviet economists, believes that this would be no bad thing, as such people ruin the morale of the rest of the workforce.

In defence of this tough realism, he quotes a famous phrase of Lenin's in 1921 that only those who work shall eat. He finds a further text from Lenin to back up his argument. *In its contract with the state,* a factory must "limit the number of workers and employees and raise their productivity as well as labour discipline to the *normal level*".

He believes the Shchekino system, if applied in all offices, ministries and enterprises, would do much for this labour *discipline, one of the most* vexed issues of Soviet industry at the moment. At the same time he looks back with admiration to the system of sharp *wage differentials that existed* in Stalin's day—"in the period of our country's industrialization", as he puts it.

In those days workers in priority industries, especially heavy industry, received far greater pay, but had to work hard in order to remain in that income bracket, otherwise they were moved to less remunerative jobs.

Nowadays, he says, the priorities are different and farming is considered as important as heavy industry. But the differentials should be reintroduced, only this time they would depend not on the type *of job but on how well a worker* worked. And most people would be spurred on by the fear of falling down the wage ladder.

"If the first result of the *Shchekino system is a change* in people's attitudes to their work, then the second result will be to overcome the shortage in the country's labour reserves." Professor Popov concludes.

Michael Binyon

Business Diary: Hats off to Sally? • Mr Ten Per Cent

...lly Oppenheim, the Minister ...f State for Industry, ...t best known, if not always ...est loved, in her role as the ...overnment's head of consumer ...ffairs. Tonight, however, she ...s seen wearing for the first ...ime a new and just as im... ...ortant hat—that of tourism ...inister.

Mrs Oppenheim will be at ...ounty Hall, Westminster, to ...resent the first Sir Mark Henig ...wards for local authority enter... ...rise in tourism.

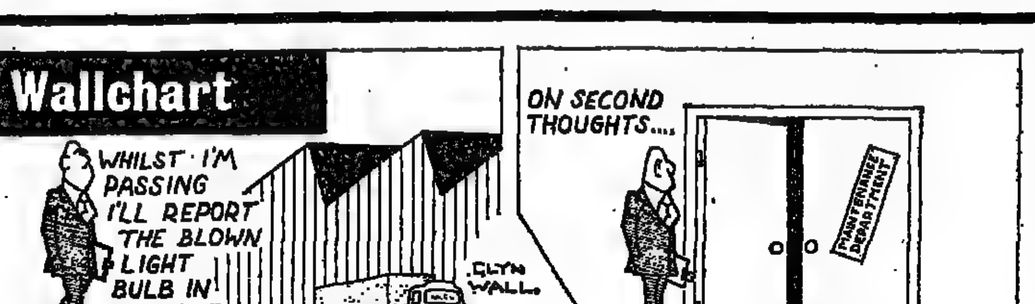
In last week's Thatcher ...eshuffle, Norman Tebbit, the ...revious tourism minister, was ...romoted from Under-Secre... ...ary at Trade to Minister of ...tate at Industry. Tebbitt's ...ourism portfolio would nor... ...ally have been handed on ...o his successor, Lord Tref... ...arne, but to the delight of the ...ourist lobby it is now in Mrs ...ppenheim's grasp.

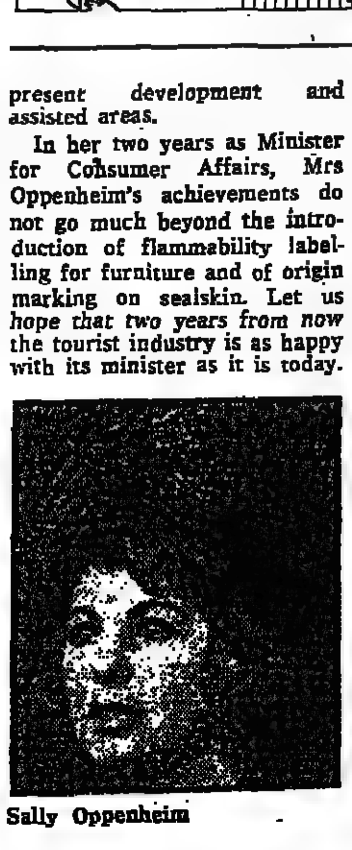
No disrespect to the noble ...ord, of course. It is just that ...t is better to be bending the ...ar of a minister of state than ...f an under-secretary.

Nobody will be more ...elighted at this upgrading of ...ourism's importance than Mrs ...ppenheim's host tonight, ...ichael Montague. He is the ...hairman of the English Tourist ...oard, and the predecessor of ...ir Mark, the ETB's founder-... ...hairman who died two years ...go this month.

Local government boundaries ...re to be reviewed in 1982, at ...hich time Montague and ...eople in the tourism industry ...re hoping that the Govern... ...ent can be talked into allow... ...ng the English Tourist Board ...o dispense loans and grants for ...ourist developments outside the present development and assisted areas.

In her two years as Minister for Consumer Affairs, Mrs Oppenheim's achievements do not go much beyond the introduction of flammability labelling for furniture and of origin marking on sealskin. Let us *hope that two years from now* the tourist industry is as happy with its minister as it is today.





Sally Oppenheim

● The Bermuda Triangle, everybody knows, is a stretch of water where ships and aeroplanes are said to disappear greatly to the profit of novelists and film-makers.

A new magazine, *British Shipper,* has come up with a new variation on this popular theme, although despite the title of the magazine the "triangle" has to do with neither ships nor aircraft but with land, specifically the area of Northern Italy between *Milan, Como and the Brenner* Pass.

Here, where much of Italy's frontier traffic is handled, trans-Europe juggernauts are disappearing so fast, the magazine says, that diplomatic relations with the Italians are suffering.

In one street, Milan's Via *Valtellina,* two trailers are stolen each week, and there is strong romantic interest to the story. Too many lorry drivers are taking wives with them and *parking in city centre streets* near the shops and restaurants rather than at secure lorry parks on the outskirts.

● Luo Dejin is making news around where he lives in Sichuan, China, as the first man to own his own truck under the communist regime.

After having had to sell back to a workers' brigade a tractor he had bought from it, when his success in using it "caused a shock of resentful envy", he saved almost £1,000 and borrowed another £100 from a local agricultural bank to buy himself a lorry.

Local press reports, monitored in Hongkong, say: "The bank heard his case with astonishment—nothing like this had happened before and the matter was referred to the county government who reasoned 'if water buffaloes can be owned privately as a means of production why not a truck?' and he was lent the money."

Having worked "conscientiously" for some time he began to make a small profit. "Now he is at the service of anybody day or night. He accepts no such thing as tips or gifts in doing his job."

● I am one of those Lambeth householders who yesterday winced at receiving the demand for an extra rate payment to *enable this Labour council to* defy the call for cuts in spending from the Environment Secretary, Michael Heseltine.

In my case the demand was for an *extra* £77 and in the case of Shell, whose London HQ is in the same borough, it is for another £600,000 on top of the year's rate.

I, *and I suppose the oil company,* take the matter philosophically. Not so, however, Hamworthy Engineering, a subsidiary of Powell Duffryn.

Hamworthy is now paying £400,000 a year to the Tory-controlled Dorset County Council—four times more than seven years ago and enough to sting chairman Douglas Smith into action.

He got together with the managers of seven other firms in a "Rates Liaison Group", which then looked into the county council's books. The group's conclusion, Smith says, is that the Dorset council could cut back manpower by *one in ten* without reducing services.

The Royal Bank of Scotland seems to have devised the most efficient way of handling the embarrassing growth in the money supply. My Scottish correspondent noticed that a teller at his local branch was counting a pile of tenners at astonishing speed with a curious twitch of the fingers and odd angle of the wrist. "We can all do it", she explained. "We count the notes two at a time."

Ross Davies

Stock markets

Gilts active but low turnover in equities

The second leg of the account had a quiet but basically firm start yesterday. Turnover was low but prices held up, with no real selling pressure.

Confusion throughout the day over whether the American hostages had actually left Iran, had little effect on most sectors with the exception of gold shares, which seesawed about in line with the fluctuating gold price. But rumours early in the day that a line of 700,000 ICI shares were on offer took some of the strength out of other leading stocks, though prices firmed up again later.

The FT Index closed 1.7 points up, at 453.6, after being 1.0 point down just after the market opened. The Index is 7.6 points down so far on the previous account's close.

Gilts had a good day with active trade and some gains. Longs kicked off £¼ better and rose steadily for most of the session, closing £¾ up on the day, but fractionally off the top. Shorts saw some sizable buyers, and finished the day £⅛ to £⅜ better. Earlier suggestions that the Budget might unveil a 2 per cent cut in MLR are being taken more seriously this week.

Leading shares were quiet, with the ICI line of stock rumour effectively sapping interest in most other majors. ICI itself dropped as low as 282p before recovering to close at 286p, a fall of 8p. Glaxo eased 2p to 246p; while Bowater gained 3p to 180p and Beechams closed unchanged at 168p.

De La Rue suffered from recent adverse comment, and fell 25p to 675. But BTR was strong, with a few buyers pursuing shares in a narrow market, and rose 8p to 364p. Rank, which reports on Thursday, added 2p to 154p.

Defence stocks did well yesterday awaiting today's Government statement, in the belief that no further defence cuts are planned. Westland Aircraft gained 6p to 128p although trade was thin. Racal rose 7p to 299p, and Ferranti was particularly popular, gaining 15p to 450p.

Other electricals were firm, but not busy. Electrocomponents recovered some of the ground lost the week before, with a 5p rise to 623p. GEC gained 3p to 575p but ICL was unchanged at 49p. Unitech and Kode suffered from unfavourable comment and fell; Unitech lost 13p to 229p and Kode slipped 10p to 250p. Cray Electronics gained 6p to 82p on its interim results.

Banks were upset yesterday by suggestions that they plan to pay smaller dividend rises this time. Sellers were active during the day and although buyers were attracted in at the lower levels, prices did not recover. Barclays came off worst with a 14p drop to 396p. Lloyds eased 2p to 328p, National Westminster gave up the same at 358p, and the Midland fell 5p to 325p.

The discount houses continued to attract attention with Lloyds & Scottish 4p higher and its bid object, UDT, 1p lower at 49p.

Further speculative interest in R. P. Martin added 20p to its shares at 158p; but Mercantile House lost 17p to 548p after a recommendation to take profits. Alexanders Discount reported yesterday and rose 4p to 277p in limited interest.

Oil shares started the day with a few buyers, but drifted off during the afternoon. Investors are thought to be hanging fire now until the last of the seventh round licences are awarded at the end of this month. BP closed unchanged at 404p and Shell eased 2p to 45p. Second line stocks saw more business. But Australian stock Strata dropped 12p to 202p after a drilling report was postponed until later in the week.

Mining shares saw little trade but prices moved in sympathy with the gold price, which itself reacting to confused reports about the American hostages. Anglo American Gold ended £11/16 down at £44 15/16 and West Driefontein eased £⅛ to £33¼. Mining finance stocks were quiet. Consolidated Gold Fields ended flat at 473p and Charter Consolidated was 3p better at 201. RTZ gained 2p to 398p.

Massey Ferguson jumped 20p to 190p following the rescue package put together by various banks. House of Fraser added 4p to 128p ahead of today's extraordinary meeting. But News International fell 8p to 98p. Comment added 18p to J. O. Walker; but Davy's plans to sue Enserch knocked 5p off its shares at 152p. Booth International jumped 10p to 48p ahead of news of an agreed bid from Garnar Scotblair, which eased 2p to 72p. Austin Reed "A" shares were in demand and rose 8p to 59p; and Yule Catto gained 6p to 88p.

Equity turnover on January 16 was £104.56m (14,277 bargains). The most active stocks according to Exchange Telegraph were ICI, Royal Dutch, Racal, Courtaulds, Vickers ordinary, P & O, Lloyds, National Westminster, Shell, Royal Insurance, BICC, Barclays, Bowater, BET and BP.

Traded Options only managed 785 contracts yesterday with Shell and BP providing most trade. Land Securities and Lonrho were also reasonably active.

Traditional options saw calls in Town & City at 2½p, Shell at 36p, and Australian stocks Spargos Exploration and Strata at 7p and 32p respectively.

Is the Bell Group, headed by Mr Robert Holmes A'Court, still interested in a stake in Rolls-Royce by picking up shares in Vickers? That was being asked by dealers yesterday as the price of Vickers rose 8p to 142p, making a 16p gain in two days. In July Bell expressed interest in R-R before its merger with Vickers.

Shares of Candecca hardened 4p to 198p amid talk of increased production at its Humbly Grove site in Hampshire. This in turn has led to speculation that further wells are planned on the site.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Caledonian Cine (I)	4.74(3.8)	0.52(0.28)	—(—)	2.0(2.0)	6/2	—(—)
Cray Electronics (I)	9.8(5.9)	0.35(0.22)	1.49(1.09)	0.63(0.57)	10/4	—(1.72)
Estates Property (I)	—(—)	1.22(0.9)	—(—)	2.75(2.5)	2/4	—(—)
G. T. Japan (I)	—(—)	0.06(0.18)	0.58(1.77)	0.5(1.0)	6/3	—(—)
Meggitt (F)	7.2(8.26)	0.03(0.364)	2.9(8.8)	0.42(0.42)		0.84(0.84)
Sirdar (I)	5.8(6.2)	0.6(0.75)	7.05(12.4)	0.5(0.5)	13.3	—(4.0)
David S. Smith (I)	4.3(4.1)	0.86(0.69)	7.7(6.1)	2.5(2.5)	27/2	—(7.0)
Westpool Inv (I)	1.09*(—)		0.92(—)	0.45(—)	6/3	—(—)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. *=Gross revenue. †=After loan stock conversion. ‡=Net.

Government cuts fail to slow Cray Electronics

By Peter Wainwright

Cray Electronics is having no trouble growing at its target rate of 20 per cent. Indeed, the only fear is that in some months' time it may revert to this pace of growth.

In the six months to October 31 sales leapt from £5.84m to £9.8m, an increase of 70 per cent, while pretax profits jumped by 54 per cent to £345,000. The interim dividend has been raised by 10.5 per cent to 0.63p a share net, or 0.9p gross.

The leap in sales is said to reflect in part contract completions, as well as the doubling of capacity at J & S Marine work as a prime contractor, and an increase in the group's Demand for many lines is described as encouraging, "but the recession cannot be ignored".

The moratorium on defence procurement was total for the three months from August to October, but Cray had so much work to do that neither the latest figures nor those for the second half year will be affected.

Cray gets about 50 per cent of its business from the Ministry of Defence and the Post Office accounts for a further 6 per cent. It does not seem to have lost any large order in the recent wave of Government cuts.

More company news, page 23

Profits halved at Peerless, but dividend is raised

By Margareta Pagano

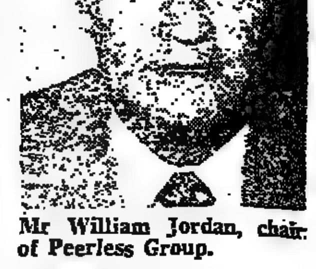
Peerless Group, the Birmingham-based maker of plastics and domestic engineering products, has been hard hit by the recession, with pretax profits more than halved to £901,000 in the six months to September, compared with £1.92m last time.

Turnover slipped from £14.85m to £14.5m, but the recommended interim dividend of 3p gross has been raised in line with the forecast when the group went public last May.

At the time of the offer for sale the board said it expected total dividends for the year to March 31, 1981, of at least 9p gross. The final dividend is expected to be paid in August.

Trading profit was down to £1.3m against £2.2m last time. Lower profits were arrived at after doubled interest charges of £376,000, taxation down to £200,000 from £410,000 and a £69,000 loss from an associated company. Earnings a share fell from 11.7p to 5.4p. The shares droped 5p to 80p on the news, well below the 100p offer price last year.

Mr William Jordan, the chairman, said yesterday that trading conditions during the period continued to deteriorate in common with the decline in demand throughout the manufacturing industry. Squeezed profit margins and higher interest rates have affected profits. The board, he added, had taken all possible steps to



Mr William Jordan, chairman of Peerless Group.

minimise the effects on the company, but was well placed to take maximum advantage of any upturn in the economy. But did not expect recovery in the second half of the year.

Demand is down in all of the group's divisions: plastics, electronics and domestic engineering, kitchen furniture and metal stamping. Short-time working has recently been introduced at the Rar... subsidiary making electrical and electrical controls. A downturn in home improvements was said to be the cause for the weakness in the water fittings and kitchen furniture division.

Last year Peerless reported pretax profits in line with forecasts made during the offer for sale.

Staveley to sell a Canadian offshoot

Staveley Industries, the group with varied interests in electrical and mechanical engineering, machine tools, salt, and weighing equipment has done its share of expanding into North America but yesterday it announced a strategic withdrawal. It has signed heads of agreement with R. C. Baxter for a sale of assets comprising the eastern manufacturing and marketing division of Standard Modern Tool of Toronto.

The group explains that the business is deep in nuclear power system components and machine tools. Its interests will apparently be best served in "a total Canadian environment". In the last accounts for the year to March 29, 1980, it was reported that the bulk of North American growth was coming from the United States. Little change in Canadian profits was eexpected.

Staveley is getting Canadian $9.5m, about £3.3m, most of it next March. The rest, $1.75m, is to be paid on January 1, 1986. The price is said to reflect the book value of the net assets. In the year to March 29, 1980, the Canadian companies made $1.4m or around £490,000 before tax. Total group pre-tax profits in the same period were £7.3m.

The group adds that Williams Machinery, in marketing and distributing materials handling equipment in British Columbia and Alberta, is not part of the deal. It stays inside Staveley.

Booth International and Garnar agree on £2m bid

The boards of Garner Scotblair and Booth (International Holdings) have agreed on terms for a bid for Booth. They are two shares plus 150p cash for every two Booth shares. At 75p per Garner share, the offer values Booth at £2.4m or 60p a share.

Mr J. S. M. Booth has irrevocably undertaken to accept the offer in respect of 400,615 shares, some 10 per cent of the total. The other directors of Booth have indicated that they will accept the offer. Full acceptance will involve the issue of 1.6m New Garnar shares, or 23.3 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Both companies operate over a broad sector of the leather industry.

Both companies suffered losses in the first half of 1980. The main reason is the sharp fall in the price of skins and hides, the strength of sterling and the high interest rates.

Westpool tops £1m at half time

Westpool Investment Trust reports a gross revenue for the six months to October 31 at £1,090m. Earnings a share were 0.92p and the net asset value a share 171.3p. An interim dividend at 0.45p net is declared.

As was indicated in the annual report, the short-term effect of the increased emphasis on asset growth is to reduce the level of income available for distribution.

The board expects to recommend a final of not less than 0.7p net which, excluding the special dividend paid in December 1980, would make a total equivalent to 1p for the year.

The capital as adjusted by the recent scrip issue.

Caledonian Cinemas ahead midway

Caledonian Associated Cinemas reports a turnover for the half year to September 27 of £4.73m against £3.83m. Taxable profits were £521,000 compared with £281,000. The interim dividend is held at 2.86p gross.

The board reports that all divisions performed well in the period. However, the board says that these results should not be taken as an indication of the profits to be earned for the full year.

Ash & Lacy buys galvanizing company

Ash & Lacy says—its Joseph Ash & Son subsidiary—has acquired from G. A. Harvey & Co (London) subsidiary of Butterfield-Harvey—the galvanizing business of Harvey Fabrication. The purchase price is based on the net asset value, excluding debtors less creditors, and is estimated to be £242,000 cash.

The purchase will further strengthen the galvanizing business of Joseph Ash, especially in South East England, where Ash & Lacy recently acquired Leech Brain & Co.

Barclays American plans $75m notes offering

Barclays American Corporation said it had filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission a registration statement for an offering of $75m (£31m) of senior notes due 1988.

The notes will be offered by a group of underwriters led by Merrill Lynch White Weld Capital Markets Group and by Goldman Sach. The offer is expected to be made in early February.

The notes will not be redeemable before February 1, 1986.

International

Generale Occidentale

Generale Occidentale, the food and banking group headed by Sir James Goldsmith, reported net consolidated income for the first half of the year to March 31 of 87.2m francs (about £7.9m), against 76m in the same period a year before.

Net income of the parent company came to 7.64m francs, up from 5.16m a year before.

Record merger

Australia's largest merger was completed in Melbourne yesterday with the signing of an A$200m (£100m) deal between Australian Consolidated Industries and Acmil.

Sir Andrew Grimwade, the chairman of ACI, said the merger would be a significant step forward for both companies and would result in an Australian-owned company with a broader base to compete in overseas markets, particularly in the Pacific.

Matsushita Electric

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co, of Japan, yesterday said that parent company net profits and sales for the year to November 20 were at record levels because of brisk sales of video tape recorders and other audio products.

After-tax profits rose by 12 per cent to 73,000m yen (£146m) on sales up by 16.2 per cent at 2,000bn.

Banks to be consulted on loan scheme

A specific plan for a loan guarantee scheme for small businesses is soon to be put to the banks by the Government. The scheme will be based on the proposals put forward by the Union of Independent Companies.

Mr John MacGregor, the new minister responsible for small businesses, confirmed this yesterday but he stressed that the Government was waiting to see how consultations would go before final commitment.

He said the idea of the consultation was to find out if the Government had a viable scheme. He added that the results of the consultations would have to go back to the Cabinet.

Meanwhile, sources inside the clearing banks yesterday indicated that the idea of loan guasantees would receive a much warmer reception from them this time round.

Mr MacGregor made the comments at a meeting at which he launched a series of six booklets published by the Department of Industry to provide advice for small businesses.

He said the Government was continuing to look at ways of helping small companies and revealed that the DoI was working on a survey of all small businesses in Britain. This will be the United Kingdom equivalent of a famous study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which showed that 66 per cent of all jobs created came from the small business sector.

Nervous selling hits Strata

Stock market excitement in Australian oil exploration stock Strata Oil eased yesterday as nervous selling knocked 23 cents from the share price to A$4.12 pulling it off its year's peak reached last Thursday.

The shares were soaring last week on hopes of a substantial gas find in its Woodada Three well, the last of three in the onshore Perth Basin.

At that time it was rumoured that Strata, which has a 26.95 per cent interest in the well, had struck 3,000 bn cubic feet of gas.

Investors hanging on before the weekend awaiting confirmation of the find started selling after Strata issued its regular Monday morning bulletin to say that drilling at Woodada Three had been completed. Indications of light oil and gas have been previously reported. It says that preliminary testing of the "zones of interest will be carried out and first results are expected mid-week".

Briefly

Kennings Estates: Turnover year to September 30 £ (£1.7m). Taxable profits (£1.8m).

R. & W. Hawthorn, Le[slie]: Having now received official document from Starwest, board, fully supported by financial advisers, Samuel Mon[tagu] & Co, see no merit in approach from Starwest and is of view financial terms of offers inadequate. Chairman will shortly be writing to shareholders.

Sterling Trust: Kuwait Investment Office has acquired 50... ordinary making holding 1... (6.68 per cent).

Harrisons & Crosfield: Kuwait Investment Office has acquired 50,000 ordinary making interest 5.29m (9.06 per cent).

Adela Investment: It was announced last January that a financial restructuring of the Adela Group was necessary in view of financial difficulties and repayments of principal on bank loans were then suspended pending discussions with certain creditors. These discussions are now at an advanced stage and Adela expects shortly to be able to publish details of the restructuring proposals.

Estates Property Investment: ...tax income for six months to October 31, £1.22m (£914,000). 2.75p net (2.5p). Interest attributable to properties in course of development amounted to £8... (£61,000) and has been excluded from figures. This will be dealt with by a transfer from reserves.

W. Goodkind & Sons: has changed contracts with EPC Properties whereby Parkdale has received £52,500. And has agreed that EPC may demolish a part of Parkdale's Leeds freehold of...

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 12½%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	65	—	6.7	10.3	5.8
40	21	Armitage & Rhodes	40	+1	1.4	3.5	16.5
192	92½	Bardon Hill	139	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
87	40	County Cars Pref	40	—	—	—	—
98	88	Deborah Services	95	—	5.5	5.7	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	116	—	6.4	5.0	3.6
110	56	Frederick Parker	55	−1	11.0	19.6	2.6
110	74	George Blair	77	—	3.1	4.0	—
110	59	Jackson Group	108	—	6.9	6.3	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	119	—	7.9	6.6	9.7
334	244	Robert Jenkins	334	+2	31.3	9.4	—
53	50	Scruttons "A"	53	—	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	216	Torday Limited	218	−1	15.1	6.9	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	13	—	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	77	—	15.0	19.4	—
56	35	Unilock Holdings	35	—	3.0	8.3	5.5
102	81	Walter Alexander	101	−1	5.7	5.6	5.6
255	181	W. S. Yeates	254	—	12.1	4.7	4.1

Commodities

[illegible]

Discount market

The underlying credit supply situation yesterday looked to be fairly neatly balanced with demand, but funds showed a certain reluctance, and the Bank of England bridged the gap with small-scale help by way of Treasury Bills and local authority bill purchases.

This probably left some money in the system to be carried forward as a bit of a cushion for the shortage

Foreign exchange report

Foreign exchange markets spent a rather quiet session yesterday after an initial nervous flurry.

Most operators were not prepared to take large positions until they could see a clearer picture of what Iran intends to do with the assets unfrozen by the Americans as part of the deal for the release of the hostages.

However, it was felt that some of the money might find its way into sterling and the yen.

Both currencies made smart gains at the expense of the dollar at one time, although closing levels were well under the best.

The pound climbed to around 2.4190 against the dollar, before easing steadily back to 2.4070 and a net rise of 1.40 cent.

The effective exchange rate index was finally up 0.1 to 80.1, after 80.2 at noon and 80.0 at the opening.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) January 19	Market rates (close) January 19	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.4020-4190	$2.4065-4075	1.22-1.32c disc	2.65-2.95c disc
Montreal	$2.8610-8750	$2.8630-8640	0.80-0.90c disc	2.10-2.25c disc
Amsterdam	5.23-27f	5.24-25f	2⅝-1⅝c prem	6-5c prem
Brussels	77.40-90f	77.60-70f	20-10c prem	38-28c prem
Copenhagen	14.82-89k	14.84-85k	195-15ore prem	20-25ore prem
Dublin	1.2900-2970p	1.2955-2963p	10p prem-5p disc	30p prem-10p prem
Frankfurt	4.81-85m	4.82½-83½m	2⅝-1⅝pf prem	6½-5½pf prem
Lisbon	128.70-130.00e	128.85-129.05e	Par-70c disc	30-185c disc
Madrid	193.95-194.85p	194.05-15p	05-65c disc	190-265c disc
Milan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oslo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	10.70-75k	10.70½-71½k	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	482-90y	486-87y	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	34.05-35sch	34.10-15sch	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	4.37-41f	4.39-40f	[illegible]	[illegible]

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971 was up 0.1 at 80.1.

Other Markets

Australia	2.0345-2.0495
Bahrein	0.9075-0.9105
Finland	9.3450-9.3850
Greece	112.95-114.95
Hongkong	12.4650-12.5050
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.6535-0.6565
Malaysia	5.3530-5.2830
Mexico	55.60-57.10
New Zealand	[illegible].5195
Saudi Arabia	[illegible].0490
Singapore	[illegible].0310
South Africa	[illegible].8135

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	80.1	−24.3
US dollar	86.9	−7.2
Canadian dollar	79.7	−18.5
Schilling	146.5	+21.9
Belgian franc	110.9	+10.5
Danish kroner	101.1	−8.1
Deutsche mark	145.5	+39.1
Swiss franc	185.4	+74.8
Guilder	122.4	+17.6
French franc	96.1	−8.2
Lira	49.5	−52.8
Yen	146.1	+42.9

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971. (Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	[illegible]
+ Canada	[illegible]
Netherlands	[illegible]
Belgium	[illegible]
Denmark	[illegible]
West Germany	[illegible]
Portugal	[illegible]
Spain	[illegible]
Italy	[illegible]
Norway	[illegible]
France	[illegible]
Sweden	[illegible]
Japan	[illegible]
Austria	[illegible]
Switzerland	[illegible]

* Ireland quoted in US currency. + Canada $1 : US $0.8406-0.8408

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted*	divergence limit %
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.5120	+4.33	[illegible]	[illegible]
Danish krone	7.7236	7.93730	+2.77	[illegible]	[illegible]
German D-mark	2.48208	2.58051	+3.97	[illegible]	[illegible]
French franc	5.84700	5.97077	+2.12	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.70697	−1.34	[illegible]	[illegible]
Irish punt	0.668201	0.691276	+3.45	[illegible]	[illegible]
Italian lira	1157.79	1225.14	+5.82	[illegible]	[illegible]

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 19¾-20¼; seven days, 19⅝-20⅛; one month, 19⅝-20; three months, 18¹⁵⁄₁₆-19⁷⁄₁₆; six months, 17⅜-17⅞.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $[illegible] pm, $566.[illegible]. Krugerrand (per coin): $[illegible] (£242-243). Sovereigns (new): $[illegible] (£58.75-59.75).

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%
(Last changed 24/11/80)
Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%
Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 13½ Low 13
Week Fixed: 13¾-13⅞

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	[illegible]	2 months	[illegible]
3 months	[illegible]	3 months	[illegible]

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)
[illegible]

Local Authority Bonds
[illegible]

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)
[illegible]

Local Authority Market (%)
[illegible]

Interbank Market (%)
[illegible]

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
[illegible]

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Bougainville

Consistently lower grades at Bougainville, the copper and gold mine in Papua New Guinea 53.6 per cent owned by Conzinc Riotinto of Australia, resulted in 1980 production results lower than those of the previous year.

Measured by production of contained metal, copper output was 147,000 tonnes (171,000), gold 14,050 kilogrammes (19,703) and silver 36,856 kilogrammes (44,640). Average grades were: copper, 0.46 per cent (0.50), gold 0.5 grammes per tonne (0.55), and silver 1.47 grammes per tonne (1.70).

LME metal stocks

Stocks in the London Metal Exchange official warehouses at the end of last week (all in tonnes except silver, which are in troy ounces): Copper rose 1,550 to 122,650; tin rose 1,115 to 6,320; lead fell 2,575 to 71,650; zinc rose 1,700 to 90,275; aluminium fell 2,400 to 59,000; nickel fell 210 to 4,176; and silver fell 240,000 to 26,340,000.

Why the price of tin is so important to the next pact

Intensive efforts are going on behind the scenes to ensure that the next round of talks on renewing the International Tin Agreement is successful. The outcome of these discussions is important not just for the tin market—where the agreement is generally recognized as desirable—but, by implication, for other commodity agreements also.

At the moment the trend of tin prices is pointing firmly down, making agreement on the buffer stock range, the stock's size, and the use—if at all—of export controls, that much more difficult to reach.

When discussions on a sixth agreement last December, the ferocity of tin's decline was still not obvious. From about £7,600 a tonne for standard three months in December, 1979, the price fell steadily during 1980 to around £6,200. Since then it has weakened by a further £200. Three months standard closed at £6,057 in London on Friday. The primary concern now, however, is that tin's slide is by no means at an end.

For nearly four years after the end of 1973, tin supply was racing to catch up with demand. In 1978 and 1979 there were surpluses of production over consumption, but these partly served to rebuild stocks depleted during the heady days of the mid-1970s. By early 1980, sterling prices had quadrupled, giving tin a reputation as one of the most dramatic metals.

Ironically, it was also during this period that the United States refused to sell its tin. The General Services Administration was the proud possessor of a 200,000-tonne stockpile, unkindly viewed in some quarters as the world's biggest tin mine. Among the GSA's many responsibilities is maintaining strategic reserves, but of its tin mountain, only 42,000 tonnes was actually designated "strategic". The commitment to keep this material off the market underpinned the price and made the buffer stock manager's life much easier.

But tin's performance also encouraged marginal output so that between 1974 and 1980, production of concentrates rose by about 8 per cent; from 182,000 tonnes to an estimated 196,000 (which gives an idea of how big an overhang of the market the GSA's hoard is).

Consumption last year is put at around 182,000 tonnes, 2,000 tonnes less than in each of the two previous years, but 14,000 tonnes below production. From 1975 to 1979, stocks fell by approximately 22,000 tonnes to 36,000.

Commodities

For some years when the going seemed good, it was widely held that tin was in "fundamentally" short supply. One fact overlooked, however, was that demand was on a secular downward path. With hindsight, one can see that from 214,000 tonnes in 1974 consumption slid, with a number of bumps on the way, to its present level.

The upshot was that falling demand, rising output and the industrial slump coincided. From around the middle of last year, some far-sighted analysts were forecasting a deep recession in tin which for the first time in the life of the fifth agreement would bring the price into the buffer stock manager's sights. Mr David Williamson, a director of Rayner-Harwill, the London commodity traders and analysts, is convinced that the sterling price of tin will fall to at least £5,700, at which point the buffer stock manager will have to intervene.

The buffer stock is organized in a slightly unusual way. Its prices are denominated in Malaysian dollars (ringgits) so that as sterling strengthens the London price of tin at which the buffer stock becomes operative falls. On January 13 the floor price was set at M$1,650 a picul (133⅓ pounds—although to confuse the issue transactions on the Penang market are now conducted in kilogrammes) and the ceiling at M$2,145.

What matters, though, is the intermediate ranges. In the lower sector of M$1,650-1,815, the manager must buy tin; in the middle sector of M$1,815-1,980, he cannot move without the council's permission; in the uppper sector of M$1,980-2,145, he must sell. This means the manager cannot support the market until the price reaches M$1,815, or about £5,640 at current exchange rates. No wonder, therefore, that sentiment has turned rapidly around and now sees this as a "free fall" market.

Against such a background, the importance of the prolonged negotiations over the sixth agreement—which everybody appears to want—is evident. The outstanding issue remains the insistence by the United States on a very big buffer stock without export controls. The original American idea that the stock should be 60,000 tonnes, which would cost some $300m, imposed a wholly unfair expense on producers.

While the trigger point for export controls—the size of buffer stock at which controls would come into effect—has been reduced, the American figure is still seen by producers as inflated.

That said, there is still widespread hope that an accommodation with the United States will be reached. If not, the sixth agreement will proceed without the world's biggest tin consumer, despite its threat of unloading some 25,000 tonnes from the GSA stockpile over the next three years. But the essential point remains what will the tin price be when the final details of the pact are being hammered out? Can an effective pricing mechanism be devised in a "free fall" market?

- A warning shot has been fired across the bows of those who use American commodity markets to generate tax losses. After earlier mutterings from the Internal Revenue Service, the budget for fiscal 1982 (which starts on October 1, 1981) contains provisions for disqualifying commodity straddles and spreads.

Michael Prest
Commodities Correspondent

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

1980/81 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Stock Exchange Prices

Quiet but firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. § Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 2

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1980-81 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS								
99¾	89	Treas	9¾%	1981	99¾	..	9.814	13.151
97¹⁵⁄₁₆	91	Exch	8¼%	1981	97¹⁵⁄₁₆	+1/16	8.424	13.843
98½	91	Exch	9½%	1981	98⅛	•+1/16	9.682	13.352
94⅝	85½	Exch	3%	1981	94⅝	•+⅛	3.171	12.940
100¼	93⅜	Exch	12¾%	1981	99⅞	+⅛	12.766	12.863
96⁷⁄₁₆	88	Treas	8½%	1980-82	96⁷⁄₁₆	+3/16	8.813	12.458
93¾	81⅝	Treas	3%	1982	93¾	• ..	3.200	9.283
102¾	90½	Treas	14%	1982	100⅞	+3/16	13.877	13.161
94⁵⁄₁₆	85¾	Treas	8¼%	1982	94⅛	+⅛	8.784	12.828
94⁵⁄₁₆	85¾	Exch	9¼%	1982	94⅛	+⅛	9.826	13.270
93¼	84⅛	Exch	8¾%	1983	93⅜	+⅛	9.392	12.792
87¼	76½	Exch	3%	1983	86½	•+7/16	3.465	10.368
99¼	85¾	Treas	12%	1983	97¹⁵⁄₁₆	+½	12.267	13.202
93½	84⅛	Treas	9¼%	1983	92¹⁵⁄₁₆	+5/16	9.964	12.723
102⅛	94¼	Exch	13½%	1983	100⅞	+⅜	13.386	13.104
93¾	84½	Exch	10%	1983	92¹³⁄₁₆	+5/16	10.777	13.054
84⅞	76⅞	Fund	5½%	1982-84	84⅞	+¼	6.479	11.637
97⁷⁄₁₆	86⅞	Exch	11¼%	1984	95⅜	•+½	11.794	13.141
104⁵⁄₁₆	94½	Exch	14%	1984	102⁵⁄₁₆	+½	13.624	12.914
78¾	68¼	Exch	3%	1984	78¾	..	3.810	10.580
99⅝	88	Treas	12%	1984	96¹¹⁄₁₆	+7/16	12.395	13.102
109¼	97⅜	Treas	15%	1985	106⁵⁄₁₆	•+¼	14.114	12.968
73½	68¹³⁄₁₆	Treas	3%	1985	73⅜	..	4.089	10.868
MEDIUMS								
103¾	89½	Exch	12¼%	1985	97¼	+½	12.597	13.020
97⅞	93½	Exch	11¾%	1986	93⅞	• ..	12.403	13.215
89⅞	78⅞	Treas	8½%	1984-86	85⅜	+½	9.936	12.328
103⅜	90⅜	Exch	13¼%	1987	99¼	•+⅜	13.340	13.431
81½	70¾	Fund	6½%	1985-87	79¼	+⅜	8.352	11.571
97¼	91⅛	Treas	12%	1987	95	+⅛	12.985	13.757
83	71⅞	Treas	7¾%	1985-88	77½	•+½	9.967	12.689
64⅝	54⅞	Trans	3%	1978-88	62	+½	4.851	10.523
98	92⅝	Treas	11½%	1989	86⅞	•+⅜	13.089	14.066
65¼	57¼	Treas	5%	1986-89	64½	+½	7.916	11.893
104¼	89⅛	Treas	13%	1990	95⅞	+⅜	13.625	13.915
82	69½	Treas	8¼%	1987-90	76⅞	+⅝	10.922	12.797
96¼	81⅝	Treas	11¾%	1991	87⅛	+⅞	13.500	14.233
68	57½	Fund	5¾%	1987-91	64⅜	+½	9.176	12.256
93¼	77⅛	Exch	11%	1991	85⅛	• +⅜	13.299	14.172
102⅜	86⅜	Treas	12¾%	1992	92½	•+⅜	13.781	14.124
86⅝	74⅜	Treas	10%	1992	77⅞	•+⅜	12.704	13.819
100⅞	84¾	Exch	12¼%	1992	89¾	• ..	13.685	14.151
[illegible]								

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

INANCIAL NEWS

Restmor margins hit first half

By Michael Clark

The sharp cutback in consumer expenditure has severely squeezed margins at Restmor Group.

Interim figures for the six months to October 31 show pretax profits sliding from £1,000,000 to £605,000 on turnover £400,000 down at £5.8m. Earnings a share have tumbled from 12.4p to 7.5p.

A spokesman for the company said that despite a big reduction in the amount of destocking carried out by retailers everywhere, conditions are unlikely to show any substantial improvement in the second half. *Last year the baby carriage and nursery furniture group increased pretax profits from £1.2m to £1.5m.*

The board described the performance as reasonable in the light of the current economic situation in the United Kingdom which has led to the drop in consumer spending. This had, in turn, resulted in a drop in demand and placed increased pressure on margins.

However, the board has maintained the interim payment of 0.71p gross.

The group, which has Mothercare as one of its biggest customers, has also been feeling the pinch abroad where the strong pound has been of little service.

But despite the shortfall in profits the market seemed pleased with the performance and the shares hardened 1p to 75p.

Business appointments

Hartley Cooper name new joint deputy chairman

Mr J. E. Jewiss has been made joint deputy chairman of Hartley Cooper Holdings. Mr S. Flowers succeeds Mr Jewiss as managing director of Hartley Cooper. Mr M. D. Benstead has become a director of Hartley Cooper UK.

Mr Alan Cox, formerly chief executive, General Steels division, Mr Alec Daly, formerly chief executive, Sankey Division, and Mr David Lees, formerly general manager, finance, have been appointed corporate management directors and members of the GKN management committee.

Mr Michael J. H. Harding is sales and marketing director of CompAir Construction & Mining.

Mr W. G. Redley has resigned as chairman of CPC (United Kingdom) because of ill health, but will continue as a non-executive director. He has been succeeded by Mr W. J. H. Bowen. In addition, Mr D. Benjamin has resigned from the board of the company to take up a new post at CPC International's headquarters in New Jersey. He is succeeded on the board of CPC (United Kingdom) as operations director of its industrial division by Mr S. Alexander.

Mr Michael Thompson has become managing director of the newly-formed NFER Nelson Publishing Company. Mr Michael McWhinnie has been made director of marketing. Mr David J. Smith has joined the board of Thomas Nelson & Sons with responsibility for United Kingdom marketing.

Lord Tryon has joined the boards of Romney Trust and Raeburn Investment Trust. Mr E. W. Phillips has resigned from the boards.

Mr L. E. Field is the new managing director of Worley Wallcoverings. Mr B. Valentine becomes financial director; Mr D. R. Wilkinson is marketing director; Mr F. C. Cosney is director, United Kingdom sales; and Mr K. B. McMullen is director, sales development. Mr Maurice Worley, founder of the company, continues as chairman.

Mr John H. Pattisson is to rejoin the board of Hanson Trust at the beginning of April.

Mr L. J. Tolley has retired as chairman and as a director of Francis Shaw & Co. A new chairman has been designated but is unable to take up his duties until May 1. In the interim Mr John Parsons will be acting chairman.

Mr P. A. Riches and Mr A. H. Wood have been made directors of Sedgwick Marine.

Warning from David S. Smith

Despite an improvement in profits at the half-way stage, Mr David Smith, the chairman of David S. Smith Holdings, has warned shareholders that expectations for the full year are likely to fall short of last year's record £1.57m.

Interim figures from the printing and packaging group show pretax profits for the six months to October 31 up from £36,000 to £864,000 on turnover increased from £4.1m to £4.3m. Earnings a share are up from [illegible] to 7.7p.

However, Mr Smith said that while production in the first half was maintained at a satisfactory level, trading conditions affected sales and put margins under pressure. As a result, taking into account the uncertain future, he expects full year profits to be "somewhat below" those of last year.

The interim dividend has been maintained at 3.57p gross.

RETAIL SALES

Figures for the volume of retail sales released by the Department of Trade:

	Sales by volume (seasonally adjusted) (1976=100)	Sales by value (not adjusted) % change on year earlier
1979		
1st Qtr	105.8	+14
2nd Qtr	113.0	+20
3rd Qtr	106.8	+15
4th Qtr	109.1	+18
1980		
1st Qtr	110.2	+20
2nd Qtr	109.2	+13
3rd Qtr	108.9	+14
4th Qtr	109.5	—
1979		
August	107.8	+15
Sept	106.9	+18
Oct	108.2	+18
Nov	110.2	+21
1980		
August	109.6	+13
Sept	108.5	+13
Oct	109.7	+12
Nov	109.2	+9 (prov)
Dec	109½ (prov)	—

New Life Business

The value of a non-profit life assurance policy, be it term, endowment or whole-life, taken out at the beginning of the seventies will look woefully inadequate in terms of cover at today's values. But, despite a decade of high inflation, life assurance companies have been particularly slow in adopting their products to enable the policy-holder to keep pace with inflation by increasing the sum assured throughout the term.

When it wants to, the industry can be quick off the mark and policies have become much more flexible—particularly in areas which affect the life company's profitability or market share. In the areas of greater concern to policy-holders, the pace of innovation has been much slower.

Take term assurance, for example. This provides a cheap form of protection under which the insurance company pays out a fixed sum if you die during the term, but nothing if you survive it. Companies offer convertible term assurance, where you can change the policy to a more permanent form of insurance; and renewable convertible term policies have been introduced more recently which allow you to renew your policy without further evidence of health at the end of the term. But this is also a matter of self-interest for the companies, making it easy to convert temporary insurance into something more permanent.

Now, though, the life assurance industry is becoming increasingly inflation-conscious in this area of non-profit business—and not before time. A small but growing number of companies offer cover which allows the policy-holder to increase his sum assured without further evidence of health by including this as an option in the policy.

Usually there is a five-year term, after which the policy can be renewed or converted and the sum assured can be increased in line with inflation over the period. This is a step in the right direction, but further steps are needed.

What happens if you die a couple of months before the cover runs out? With an inflation rate of 15 per cent the value of your original sum assured is virtually halved in five years. A 10 per cent inflation rate over seven years or 7 per cent rate for 10 years has the same effect.

A handful of life offices have, however, brought out policies where the sum assured can be increased each year without further evidence of health—and they have proved popular. Legal & General, which introduced a five-year term policy on this basis, reports that nearly three-quarters of its policy-holders go for this particular option each year. *Similarly, Skandia Life,* which has a whole-life policy offering this facility reports a 60 per cent take-up.

Other companies have brought out their own versions of policies which allow the sum assured to increase annually, though not necessarily in line with inflation. For example, Guardian Royal Exchange has a nine-year term policy where the sum assured rises by 12.5 per cent each year (with a corresponding rise of 10 per cent in the premium), which means that the sum assured doubles throughout the term of the policy.

The Equitable policy works the other way round, in that you pay a flat premium throughout the term but the sum assured increases at intervals selected at the outset. For example, you take out a term policy for a sum assured of £10,000 which increases to £20,000 after five years and then to £50,000 after 20 years.

This policy has proved popular, even though it lacks flexibility in that you have to select the amount and timing of the increases when you take out the policy. Equitable Life argues that this is a safer approach for the life assurance company.

Where the policy-holder can increase his sum assured during the term, a life office might find that less healthy individuals take full advantage of the facilities offered, while those who are as fit as a fiddle are not so keen—a situation which would lead to the life office paying out more claims.

So far little has been done in the way of extending these facilities to family income benefit policies. These run along the same lines as term assurance, except that the benefits are paid out as annual income rather than as a lump sum.

But that change should come. Non-profit policies with fixed flat rate premiums throughout the term have little appeal in the face of inflation. If the present trend continues—with more and more companies offering policies where the sum assured can be adjusted not only for changing circumstances but also for inflation—they will become a thing of the past, as indeed they should be.

Legal Appointments

Salerooms and Antiques

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Working nights only, minimum 10 years experience controlling cash and goods. Permanent senior executive position with substantial remuneration. C.V. to:

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Competent experienced person required for city executive's farm house near Henley-on-Thames, some time in March. Predominantly weekend work. Spacious cottage and garden available, other staff kept, references essential. Might suit couple where husband follows own occupation. Ability to drive an advantage but not essential.

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MARBLE ARCH.—Prof. man, 25 ...

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BROOK GREEN ...

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S.W.3. CHELSEA ...

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RICHMOND ...

MAYFAIR, W1. Elegantly furnished ...

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NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

(continued on page 25)

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Alan Howard swaps Shakespeare for spies when he plays [illegible] in the new six-part drama serial Cover which begins tonight on ITV at 9.00. With him is Sandra Dickinson who takes the part of his secretary, Zelda.

How many of us can cast our minds back twenty-five years to the birth of ITV and the first television commercial. Those who want to be reminded of the early years of this profitable business should watch But the Client Loved It ... (BBC 1. 10.35 pm), an omnibus programme that looks at the makings of the earliest television commercials and interviews the pioneers of the industry. [illegible]

A new series for sail enthusiasts begins this evening when Under Sail (BBC 2, 6.40) gets under way with the first of six films about old sailing vessels. The Falmouth Working Boat is the star tonight and we follow the fortunes of one of them—the Morning Star—as it dredges the oyster beds of Falmouth Harbour. Tom Salmon, the narrator, explains the two hundred year evolution of this rare open vessel which can be sailed and worked single-handed. [illegible]

Both BBC and ITV are covering live today's inauguration ceremony of President Reagan. For BBC 2 (4.45 pm) David Dimbleby reports from Washington via satellite as do Alastair Burnet and Norman Rees for ITV (4.45 pm). I assume the scene setting they do so well.

There and Back (Radio 4, 11.05 am) is Joan Bakewell's first radio play. It concerns Gloria Peters (played by Sarah Badel), a television personality trying to cope with the demands of her public. When she is asked to judge a cookery contest she finds her advice is wanted on more than culinary matters.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools, Colleges: The news from a French-speaking European country. 9.35 Life in a 16th century town. 9.57 Language development for young children. 10.16 Look and Read. 10.38 English. 11.00 Watch: A study of coasts. 11.17 Television Club. 11.38 Time out of Mind. 12.05 pm Politics and Society. Closedown at 12.30.

12.45 News.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One. World famous ballerina Alicia Markova is the guest this afternoon. 1.45 Fingerbobs (r). 2.00 You and Me. 2.14 For Schools, Colleges: Germany. 2.40 Japan: The Crowded Island. Closedown at 3.00.

3.20 Pobol y Cwm. Welsh serial. 3.55 Play School (shown earlier on BBC 2). 4.20 Laurel and Hardy. A cartoon entitled Shrinking Shrieks. 4.25 Jackanory. Pippa Guard with part two of A Donkey Called Paloma by Nina Warner Hooke. 4.40 Animal Magic introduced by Johnnie Morris with Terry Nutkins. We hear the first rendition of Johnny's song in praise of Terry's scallion, Gemini. 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Grange Hill. In part seven Susi McMahon's article in the school magazine angers Mr McClusky. 5.35 Ivor the Engine (r).

5.40 News read by John Edmunds. 5.55 Regional news magazine. 6.20 Nationwide.

6.45 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. This evening there are two cartoons starring Tom and Jerry and two with Barney Bear. 7.15 Ted. American comedy series based around the drivers and passengers of the Sunshine Cab Company of New York.

7.40 Six of the Best: A Man Called Ironside. The sedentary sleuth is called in to solve a murder mystery. Raymond Burr stars (r). 8.30 Seconds Out. Comedy series about a young professional boxer. This evening he has to fight one of his friends.

9.00 News read by Jan Leeming. 9.25 Play: A Brush with Mr Porter on the road to El Dorado. A young couple open a restaurant to escape the rat race and their best customers are Mr and Mrs Porter. The play is written by Don Haworth and stars Christopher Benjamin and Gillian Martell as the gormandising Porters.

10.35 Omnibus: But the Client Loved It ... A nostalgic look back at the early days of television commercial making (see Personal Choice). 11.24 Platform One. Fred Emery's guest tonight is the outgoing United States Ambassador to Britain, Kingman Brewster. 11.55 News headlines.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: [illegible]

BBC 2

10.00 am Business World. The second in a series of ten programmes presented by David Blake and Linda Kelly about the world of commerce (r). Closedown at 10.25.

[illegible]

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: Simple arithmetic. [illegible]

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 7.00, 8.00 News. 7.30, 8.30 Headlines. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 Tuesday Call. 10.00 News. 10.02 From Our Own Correspondent. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Story: Speed Queen, by Jenny Oldfield. 11.00 News. 11.05 Play: There and Back, by Joan Bakewell. 11.35 Wildlife. 12.00 News. [illegible]

10.30-10.45 Listen With Mother. 11.00-12.00 Schools: Let's Move! Music Interlude; Introducing Science. 2.00 pm-3.00 Schools: History—Long Ago; Secondary Science; Stories and Rhymes. 11.00-11.30 Study on 4: Allez France! (12).

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Records: J. C. Bach, Rossini, Tchaikovsky.† 8.00 News. 8.05 Records. 9.00 News. 9.05 Week's Composer: Dowland.† [illegible]

Radio 1

[illegible]

World Service

[illegible]

Radio 2

[illegible]

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 medium wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF, World Service med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

HTV

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Play it Again. [illegible]

Ulster

[illegible]

Grampian

[illegible]

ATV

[illegible]

Southern

[illegible]

Scottish

[illegible]

Anglia

[illegible]

Yorkshire

[illegible]

Border

[illegible]

Westward

[illegible]

Granada

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 3.45-4.15 Looks Familiar. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 This Is Your Right. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 The Monte Carlo Show. 11.25 After All That, This. 11.35 The New Avengers. 12.40 am Closedown.

Channel

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 [illegible] 1.30 Channel News. [illegible] Familiar. 6.00 [illegible] 7.00-7.30 Lady [illegible] The Cuckoo Waltz. [illegible] Sweet. Sunday [illegible] Celebrity Snooker.

Tyne Tees

[illegible]

Entertainments Guide

[illegible]

OPERA & BALLET

[illegible]

THEATRES

[illegible]

HER MAJESTY'S. 930 6606 S cc Egs. 8, Sat. 8.15, Wed. 3, Sat. 5. MATS. HALF PRICE. Grp Sales Box Office 379 6061. LAST TWO WEEKS. "ALL IN ALL THE BEST THING TO HAVE HAPPENED TO THE WEST END IN A VERY LONG TIME. A TOTAL AND UTTER DELIGHT" Punch. THE STREETS OF LONDON by Dion Boucicault "The Whole Theatre Cheered" D. Tel. "A MUSICAL FEAST" Now! "Timely and what is more a great deal of fun" D. Mail. "PRACTISE HISSING AND BOOK NOW!" E. News.

KINGS HEAD 226 1916. Dnr 8.45 Show 9.45 SHADOW PLAY "Best Coward revival since the National's 'Hay Fever'" Obs. & A MAN OF FEELING by Stephen Oliver.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH cc 01-741 2311 Ends Sat! Ton't, Tomor, Fri 7.30, Thur. Sat 3.30 & 7.30. THE AMUSING SPECTACLE OF CINDERELLA by Martin Duncan. With Eleanor Bron, Lesley Duff, Susan Jameson, Alison Steadman. "simply the best pantomime I have ever seen" Obs. From 29 Jan HOBSON'S CHOICE cast includes Arthur Lowe, Julia McKenzie, Ronald Pickup. LYRIC STUDIO Ton't 7.00. Subs Eves 8.30. HERE'S A FUNNY THING. John Bardon as Max Miller.

LYRIC S cc 01-437 3686, evgs 8.0 Mat Wed 3.0, Sat 5.30, 8.30. DINSDALE LANDEN NICOLA PAGETT in ALAN AYCKBOURN'S TAKING STEPS "A VERY FUNNY EVENING, I ENJOYED MYSELF ENORMOUSLY" Evening News. "THE BEST FARCE IN TOWN"—Punch.

LYTTELTON (NT's proscenium stage): Ton't 7.45, Tomor 3.00 (low price mat) & 7.45 THE ELEPHANT MAN by Bernard Pomerance.

NATIONAL THEATRE S cc 928 2252 FOR REPERTOIRE SEE SEPARATE ENTRIES UNDER OLIVIER/LYTTELTON/COTTESLOE. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs. 928 5933. TOURS OF THE BUILDING daily (incl. backstage) £1.50. Info. 633 0880.

OLD VIC. 928 7616 cc 261 1821 "S". Ton't, Thurs., Fri., Sat. & Mon. at 7.30, Wed. at 7.00, Sat. at 2.00 (red. price prev. ton't perf. only) THE RELAPSE.

OLIVIER (N.T.'s open stage): To'nt, Tomo, 6 p.m. (note early start) low price Prevs. MAN AND SUPERMAN (including Don Juan in Hell) by Bernard Shaw.

PALACE, S cc. 01-437 6834 "OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL EVENING!" Daily Mail. Rodger's & Hammerstein's OKLAHOMA! "A MAGICAL MUSICAL EXPERIENCE" S. Times. Evenings 7.30. Mats Wed. Sat. 3.00. For group bookings 01-379 6061. Better selection of seats available Mon.-Thur.

PALLADIUM 01-437 7373. Evgs 7.30. Mats daily 2.45 except Friday. JIM DAVIDSON, MOLLIE SUGDEN, WINDSOR DAVIES, MELVYN HAYES, CLIVE DUNN, LIONEL BLAIR in DICK WHITTINGTON "Bright, fast-moving, dazzling spectacle worth every penny". D. Mail. Book now. Box Office and all agents. Credit cards accepted. Group sales box office 379 6061.

PHOENIX c.c. 01-836 2294-5. Credit Card Bookings 01-836 8611. THAT'S SHOWBIZ! The Sensational Variety Spectacular. OPENS FEB. 11TH AT 7.00. Subs. Twice Daily at 6.00 & 8.30. Prices: £2.50, £3.50, £4.50, £5.50.

PICCADILLY S 437 4506 cc 379 6565. Group Bkgs 379 6061/836 3962. Mon.-Fri. 8. Mat. Wed. 3. Sat 6 & 8.40 Stalls from £2.90. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE CO. in Willy Russell's new comedy EDUCATING RITA COMEDY OF THE YEAR SWET AWARD 1980 "SPLENDID THEATRE EVENING QUITE ASTOUNDING"—Time Out. "A MARVELLOUS PLAY, HILARIOUS. IT SENT ME OUT MOVED, EXCITED & EXHILARATED" S. Tms. RSC also at Aldwych/Warehouse.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE 930 8681. Credit Card bookings 930 0846. PAUL DANIELS in IT'S MAGIC "TRIUMPH" Fin. Times. "A WINNER" Variety. "PURE MAGIC" Sun. Mirror. Mon.-Thurs. 8.0, Fri. & Sat. 6 & 8.45. EXTRA EASTER MATS 20th & 21st APRIL AT 3.0.

PRINCE EDWARD. S cc Box Off. 437 6877. cc Hotline 439 8499. Grp. sales 379 6061. Eves 8.0, Mat. Thur. (Economy price) & Sat. 3.0. EVITA by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber. Dir. by Harold Prince.

QUEENS S cc 01-734 1166 PENELOPE KEITH Peter JEFFREY Barbara FERRIS MOVING A new play by Stanley Price Directed by Robert Chetwyn Reduced price. Prev Tonight 8.0. OPENS TOMORROW AT 7.0 Sub evgs 8.0, Mat Wed 3.0. Sat 5.0 & 8.15 Grp Sales 379 6061

RAYMOND REVUEBAR cc 734 1593. At 7, 9, 11 p.m. Open Suns. Paul Raymond presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. New Acts New Girls! New Thrills! 23rd sensational year! Fully air conditioned.

ROUND HOUSE 267 2564 NEW VIC THEATRE in CANTERBURY TALES Directed by Michael Bogdanov. "High jinx & laughter" S. Tel. Last week. Evgs 8. Mat. Weds. 2.30 & Sat. 5.00.

ROUND HOUSE. 267 2564. Scarborough Theatre in the Round in SUBURBAN STRAINS. A musical play by ALAN AYCKBOURN composed by PAUL TODD. Reduced price prevs. 2-4 Feb. 8. Opens Feb. 5 at 7. Mat. Thurs. & Sat. 2.30. Sub. Evgs. 8.

ROYAL COURT S cc 730 1745. TOUCHED By Stephen Lowe. Opens tont. 7. Sub. evgs. 8. Mon. all seats £2.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE UPSTAIRS 730 2554. World Premiere of FOUR IN A MILLION devised and Dir. by Les Blair. Prevs. Ton't, tomor. & Thurs. 7.30. Opns Fri. 7.

SAVOY THEATRE 01-836 8888. JOHN ALDERTON PAULINE COLLINS "PLAY OFF EACH OTHER BEAUTIFULLY, TOUCHING, FUNNY AND VERY MUCH ALIVE" Gdn. in Charles Dyer's comedy RATTLE OF A SIMPLE MAN "COULD HAVE BEEN SCRIPTED FOR THEM" Times. "A THEATRICAL GEM" The People. Reduced Group Bookings 839 3092. Credit Card bookings. Only 01-839 2781 & 836 7316 (9.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m. Sats 9.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m.). Season extended.

ST. MARTIN'S. cc 836 1443. Evgs. 8. Tue. 3.45. Sats. 5 & 8. AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP 29th YEAR

STRAND cc 01-836 2660, 01-836 4143. Evs. 8.0. Thurs. 3.0. Sats 5.30 & 8.30. NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH Directed by Allan Davis Group sales box office 379 6061

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789) 292271. Amex Cards (0789) 297129. Info (0789) 69191. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in RICHARD II tonight & Fri. 7.30. "First rate productions" Guardian. RICHARD III tomor. 7.30; Thu. 1.30. HAMLET Thu. 7.30. AS YOU LIKE IT Sat. 2.00 (last perf.).

SHAFTESBURY. cc Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2. Tel. Box Office 01-836 6596 or 01-836 4255. Credit Card booking only 01-839 7516 or 01-839 4682 (9.30-6.00. Sats. 9.30-4.30) Group bookings only 01-839 3092. TOM CONTI & GEMMA CRAVEN THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG GEMMA CRAVEN ACTRESS OF THE YEAR IN A MUSICAL WEST-END THEATRE AWARDS. "This show is a real stunner. Two of the most engaging performances in London." D. Mail. If possible book at least 28 days in advance by post. Send S.A.E. and cheque. Prices: Stalls & Royal Circle £8.00, £6.50, £5.00. Circle £3.50 (£1.70 seats at Box Office) (OAP's £4.00 Wed. Mats. best seats, Student Standby £4.00) Mon.-Fri. Evgs. 8.0. Mats. Wed. 3.0. Sats. 5.0 & 8.30. (Some good seats available Wed. Mats.)

TRICYCLE THEATRE, 269 Kilburn High Rd., NW6, 328 8626 Pip Simmons Theatre Group presents "RIEN NE VA PLUS" Eves 8. Ends Sat. "A delight" Tms. "Sheer entertainment" N. Std.

VAUDEVILLE S CC 01-836 9988. Twice daily 2.45 & 7.45. Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's SMASH HIT MUSICAL JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

VICTORIA PALACE cc 01-828 4735/6. 01-834 1317. Evgs. 7.30, Wednesday & Saturday 2.45. Group Sales 01-379 6061. ANNIE "UNBEATABLE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT" Observer.

WAREHOUSE Donmar Theatre, Earlham Street, Covent Garden. Box Office 836 6808. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. Ton't Tomor., Thurs. 7.30 premiere production NAKED ROBOTS by Jonathan Gems. All seats £3.50. Students £2.00 in advance from Aldwych Box Office.

WESTMINSTER. S. CC. 834 0283 Hugh Manning as C. S. Lewis in SONG OF THE LION "TRULY IMPRESSIVE" Times. "SPELLBINDING" S.Telegraph. Evenings 7.45 till Feb. 7.

WHITEHALL THEATRE 930 7765 cc. Paul Raymond presents FIONA RICHMOND and a Bedful of Beauties in WOT! NO PYJAMAS! Evgs 8.30, Fri. & Sat. 6.15 & 8.50 Final Week. Must terminate Sat. Jan. 24 prior to National Tour.

WINDMILL THEATRE cc 01-437 6312. Twice nightly at 8.0 & 10.0. Sunday 6.0 & 8.0 PAUL RAYMOND presents RIP OFF. Hotter than ever for 1981. The erotic experience of the modern era. 6th Great Year.

WYNDHAM'S. S 836 3028. cc 379 6565. Red. price. Gps 836 3962. Mon.-Fri. 8.00. Sat. 6 & 8.40. ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST "Exactly the shot in the arm that the West End needed" S Times. "One of the funniest shows London has seen in a very long time" Punch. "Hilarious" D.Tel.

YOUNG VIC 928 6363. Thur., Fri. 7.30 PYGMALION. Sat. 7.30 ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN.

TALK OF THE TOWN. 01-734 5051. Air-conditioning. Credit cards. LONDON'S GREAT NIGHT OUT From 8.00, Dining & Dancing 9.30 SUPER REVUE "BUBBLY" at 11: VINCE HILL DANCING TILL 1 A.M.

CINEMAS

ACADEMY 1. 437 2981. 4th month Joseph Losey's film of Mozart's DON GIOVANNI (A) perfs. 1.00 (not Sun.), 4.10, 7.40.

ACADEMY 2. 437 5129. Alain Resnais' MY AMERICAN UNCLE (A). Progs. 1.10, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30.

ACADEMY 3. 437 8819. Cocteau's ORPHEE (A) and Renoir's PARTIE DE CAMPAGNE (A) Progs. 5.45, 8.15. Sats./Suns. also 3.15.

CAMDEN PLAZA. Camden Town 485 2443. Opp. Tube. GODARD'S SLOW MOTION (Sauve Qui Peut: La Vie) (X). 3.50, 5.20, 7.10, 9.10.

COLUMBIA, Shaftesbury Ave. (734 5414) THE BLUE LAGOON (AA) Cont. progs. dly. 2.30, 4.40, 6.40, 8.40.

CURZON, Curzon St., W.1. 499 3737 Bertrand Tavernier's UNE SEMAINE DE VACANCES (AA) (English sub-titles). Progs at 2.0 (not Sun.) 4.05, 6.20, 8.40. Last 3 days.

DOMINION, Tott. Court Rd. 580 9562. THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK (U). Sep. progs. 2.30, 7.30.

EMPIRE, Leicester Square. 437 1234. Seats bookable for last evening perfs. Mon.-Fri. and all perfs. Sat. and Sun. (not late night shows) at the box office (11 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat.) or by post. No telephone bookings. SMOKEY & THE BANDIT RIDE AGAIN (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00, 3.50, 6.00, 8.30. Now RITZ Leicester Square SOMEWHERE IN TIME (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 3.30, 6.00.

GATE CINEMA, Nott. Hill. 221 0220 727 5750. STARDUST MEMORIES (AA) 1.00, 2.55, 5.15, 5.00, 7.45, 9.30. DECAMERON (X) & THE CANTERBURY TALES (X) 11.15 pm.

GATE TWO CINEMA. 837 8402/1177. Russ. Sq. Tube. KAGEMUSHA (A) 2.15, 5.15, 8.15. PLAY IT AGAIN SAM (A) & CATCH 22 (X) 11.00 pm. Lic'd Bar. Last two days starts Thursday excl. presentation of Bette Midler's THE ROSE (X).

GATE THREE CINEMA. 267 1201/485 2443. Camden Twn. Tb. KAGEMUSHA (A) IN STEREO SOUND. 2.15, 5.15, 8.15. LIC'D BAR. Last 3 days. Starts Thursday WILLIE & PHIL (X).

GATE MAYFAIR 493 2031 MAYFAIR HOTEL. Stratton St. Green Park Tube. KAGEMUSHA (A). 3.30, 8.20. Seats Bookable after 5 p.m.

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE (930 5252). Jack Lemmon in TRIBUTE (AA). Sep Progs Dly (inc Sun). Drs Open 2.10, 5.10, 8.10. Seat Bookable W/Ends & Last Eve. prog.

MINEMA. 45 Knightsbridge 235-4225/6. Andrei Tarkovsky's "MIRROR" (U) (Russian dialogue—English subtitles). Daily: 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. Late Night Show Fri & Sat 11.00 p.m.

ODEON HAYMARKET (930 2738/2771) Roy Scheider in a Bob Fosse Film ALL THAT JAZZ (X). Sep. progs. Dly. 1.30, 4.40, 8.00.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (930 6111) THE DOGS OF WAR (AA). Sep. Progs. Drs. Open Dly 1.30, 4.30, 7.45.

ODEON ST. MARTIN'S LANE. BEING THERE (AA). For info 240 0071. Box Office 836 0691. Sep Progs Dly 1.50, 5.00, 8.10.

ODEON MARBLE ARCH. W2 (723 2011/2). HAWK THE SLAYER (A). Sep. Progs. Drs. Open Dly. 1.45 (not Sun.), 3.30, 7.30. Evening programmes & Weekends may be booked in advance.

PLAZA 1, 2, 3, 4 off Piccadilly Circus. 437 1234. Advance booking facilities same as EMPIRE Leicester Square. Walter Matthau, Glenda Jackson *1. HOPSCOTCH (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. *2. AIRPLANE (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00. *3. LIFE OF BRIAN (AA). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.), 3.30, 6.00, 8.35. *4. SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES (A). Sep. progs. daily 1.00 (not Suns.) 3.30, 6.00, 8.30. *No Smoking Area. **No Smoking.

PRINCE CHARLES, Leic. Sq. 437 8181. British Premiere Exclusive Presentation CALIGULA (X). Sep perfs Dly (inc Sun.) 2.15, 5.30, 8.45. Late show Fri & Sat 11.55 Seats bkble. Lic'd bar.

SCREEN ON THE HILL. 435 3366. Woody Allen. STARDUST MEMORIES (AA). 3.20, 5.15, 7.10, 9.15. Ring 435 9787 after 5 p.m. for phone bookings.

STUDIO 3. Oxford Circus. 437 3300. Lic'd Bar. THE DEER HUNTER (X). 12.45, 4.05, 7.30. Late Show Sat. 10.50.

EVENTS

WEMBLEY ARENA cc 01-902 1234 HOLIDAY ON ICE WITH ROBIN COUSINS Tues. to Fri. 7.45. Mats. Weds. 3 Sats 2, 5 & 8 (2 & 5 perfs sold out). Suns. 2.30 & 5.30 (No Perf Mons.) £2.20 to £5.20. CHILDREN HALF PRICE. Spacious car park. Season until Feb 22.

ART GALLERIES

AGNEW GALLERY, 43 Old Bond St., W1. 629 6176. 108th ANNUAL WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITION. Until 20 Feb. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Thurs until 7.

BANKSIDE GALLERY, 48 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, SE1. Royal Society of Painters-Etchers and Engravers. Contemporary Prints until Feb. 12. Daily 10-5. Sunday 2-6. Adm. 50p, half price OAPs, Students.

BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD, Cambridge Heath Road, E2. CHAD VALLEY BOARD GAMES 1897-1935. Until March 1. Weekdays 10-6, Suns. 2.30-6. Closed Fridays. Adm. free.

BLOND FINE ART, 33 Sackville St., W.1. 437 1230. British Figure Drawings 1900-1950. Until February 7.

BLOND FINE ART, 33 Sackville St., W.1. 439 1230. John Buckland Wright—Prints. Until 8 March.

BONNARD TO ZORN 150th exhibition of fine 19th & 20th Century etchings & lithographs. Illus. cat. 75p. Mon-Fri 10-6. Sat 10.30-1. WILLIAM WESTON GALLERY 7 Royal Arcade, Albemarle St. W.1

BRITISH LIBRARY (in Brit. Museum). BENEDICTINES IN BRITAIN. Until 1 Feb. GEORGE ELIOT. Until 26 April. TUDOR MAP-MAKING. Until 31 Dec. Wkdys. 10-5. Suns. 2.30-6. Adm. free.

CRANE GALLERY, 171a Sloane St. (1st Floor), SW1. 235 2464. Paintings, Furniture, Quilts, Decoys and AMERICANA. Perhaps the most beautiful and unusual gallery in London for those interested in rare items for their homes. Daily 10-6; Sats. 10-4.

CRANE KALMAN GALLERY, 178 Brompton Rd., S.W.3. 584 7566. An exhibition of BRITISH ART. Works by Paul Nash, Sir Matthew Smith, S. J. Peploe, L. S. Lowry, B. Nicholson, Graham Sutherland, Henry Moore, Ruskin Spear, Winifred Nicholson, Alan Lowndes, Alfred Wallis, Mary Newcomb etc. Until end January. Mon.-Fri. 10-6. Sats. 10-4.

ORIAN GALLERIES, 7 Porchester Place, W2. Paintings by Henri Carpreau. Till 3rd Feb. 01-723 9473.

FINE ART SOCIETY 148 New Bond Street, W.1. 01-629 5116 GLUCK

GIMPEL FILS, 30 Davies St., W1. 493 2488. JAMES TOWER Ceramics 19th cent. QUILTS.

LUMLEY CAZALET, 24 Davies St, W1. 499 5058. Late 19th and 20th Century Original Prints.

MARLBOROUGH, 6 Albemarle St., W.1. JOHN WONNACOTT First London Exhibition 17. Until Feb 6th.

MARSHALL SPINK, 18 Albemarle St., W.1. A.P.T. Inc. presents three centuries of flower and still life paintings 1600-1900. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays until 9 p.m. Saturday until 1 p.m.

NICOLA JACOBS GALLERY, 9 Cork St., London, W1. A DECORATIVE ASPECT—CHRISTMAS '80 Dec 10 to Jan 29.

PATRICK SEALE GALLERY, 2 Motcomb St., Belgravia, SW1. Paintings by EMILIE CHARMY. Until end Jan. 01-235 0934.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Piccadilly, W.1. A NEW SPIRIT IN PAINTING Until 18 March. Open dly. 10-6. Adm. £2.00. Concessionary rate £1.40—O.A.P.s, students, groups over 10—and until 1.45 p.m. Suns.

THE COTTAGE GALLERY, 9 Hereford Rd. W.2. 01-221 4579 German Expressionists. Selected drawings and graphics. Tues.-Fri. 10-6. Sat. 11-5.

THEO WADDINGTON, 25 Cork St., London, W.1 Tel.: 734 3534. A Selection of works by Jack B. Yeats—until 7th February.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, S. Ken. PRINCELY MAGNIFICENCE: Court Jewels of the Renaissance 1500-1630. Until 1 February. Adm. £1.50. PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON McCULLIN. Until 25 January. Adm. 50p. WOLFE AT THE V&A. Until 1 February. GANYMED: PRINTING, PUBLISHING, DESIGN. Until 1 February. Wkdys. 10-5.50. Suns. 2.30-5.50. Closed Fridays.

10 YOUNG PAINTERS FROM BERLIN, 21 Jan-26 Feb. Mon-Fri 12-8 pm, Sats 10 am-1 pm. Goethe Inst. Exhibition Rd, SW7.

NOTICE

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LEGAL NOTICES

No 004709 of 1980 In the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE Chancery Division Group A MR JUSTICE SLADE Monday the first day of December 1980. In the Matter of SHELDON JONES Limited and in the Matter of the Companies Act 1948. Notice is hereby given that the Order of the HIGH COURT of JUSTICE (Chancery Division) dated the first day of December 1980 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £221,400 to £180,000 and the minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the Twentieth December 1980. Dated the 13th day of January 1981. WILKINSON & DURHAM, 14 Church Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1RN. Solicitor for the above-named Company.

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Court Circular	£5.00 per line
Box Numbers	£5.00

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—Whichever you provide, The Times can put you in contact with potential pupils and students—through The Times Educational feature on February 25th.
For more information or to book your advertisement

Ring Stella Scrivener on 01-278 9351

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We look to YOU for help, because without the generous aid of the public our work could not be continued (we have only voluntary support to rely on). Please send a donation or In Memoriam donation to: Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Room 160 AC, P.O. Box 123, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

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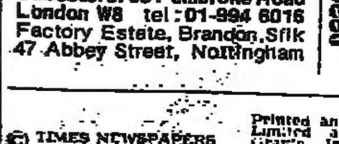

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(continued on page 24)

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ACROSS

1 Fisher, J—what class! (8).

DOWN

Solution of Puzzle No 15,427

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